

Village of Easton

Regular Meeting – July 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held July 10, 2023. The meeting was held in the Village Hall and called to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were President Don Mustered III, Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Eric Ratliff, Zain Attebery, and Louis Wagner. Others in attendance were Chief Robbins, Josh Walters, Joanna Mustered and Judy Miller.

Absent: Brock Riggins

Public: Noah Krause, Kate Nunn, and Mike Burris

2. Newly appointed board members, Village Trustee, Noah Krause was sworn into office.
3. Megan Davidson, CPA with the accounting firm Zumbahlen, Eyth, Surratt & Foote, Ltd, presented the FY23 audit report. She reported that her accounting firm believes that the audit evidence they obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their positive audit opinion that the Village ended the fiscal year in accordance with the modified cash basis accounting, as outlined in the Auditor's Report she provided.
4. No resident comments.
5. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 5, 2023 were read. Eric motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Noah seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.
6. All bills were given to the Trustees for review and approval. Joanna noted the water fund had expenses just under \$800 for the new water dept. computer and software. All other bills were normal for the month. Louis motioned to approve all the bills as presented. Eric seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.
7. **Street Department:** Josh reported that the 2023 sealcoating had been completed, curbs were painted, and that a vac truck is needed to clean out the storm drains. He will get pricing for the vac truck/drain clean out. He also noted he will be taping off a couple parking spots in front of the bank and bar for a place for the parade judges to be during the parade. After the parade, the spots will be opened again.
Water/Sewer Department: More information in New Business.
8. **Animal/Insect Report:** Don reported he had ordered more mosquito spray from Mug-A-Bug. Don Osborn has sprayed several times over the last month.
9. **Police Department:** Chief Robbins read the police report as presented. He also presented two vehicle options to the Board to replace the current squad car. The current car is continually in need of repairs and has many electric issues. He gave information regarding a 2014 Ford Taurus with mileage over 200,000. It comes with no equipment, and the equipment would total close to \$6,000 to make the car legal for a police squad. This vehicle is owned by the Mason

County Sheriff's Department & would cost \$500 to purchase. He also gave information regarding a 2015 Ford Explorer owned by Manito Police Department. It has 80,000 miles and comes fully equipped. The only thing that would need to be purchased is adding the Village name on the side of the vehicle. The cost to purchase the 2015 Ford Explorer is \$10,000. Eric motioned to purchase the 2015 Ford Explorer at the cost of \$10,000, with Louis seconding the motion. Voice vote was taken and motion carried with all ayes.

10. Treasurer's Report: Judy presented the reports. She that all funds were normal. A motion was made by Charlene and seconded by Noah to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

11. Old Business:

- A. Post Office Parking – Joanna reported that Attorney Lindner had sent an email this afternoon requesting a couple more information items, once he receives those he will draft the new ordinance.
- B. Water/Sewer Improvement Project – More information in New Business.
- C. Final Approval of 2023-2024 Appropriations Budget – Joanna explained all amounts have been raise by 5%. Eric motioned to approve the budget as presented, Charlene seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.

12. New Business:

- A. New Electric Supplier – The Board discussed the new electric supplier that county had signed on with, Energy Harbor. The reason to sign an agreement with a different supplier other than Ameren is to secure cheaper rates for supplying electric to customers.
- B. Approval of Loan Resolution for Water/Sewer Project - Eric motioned to approve the Loan Resolution as presented, Louis seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.
- C. Interim Loan Financing – Kate explained the Village had to try to obtain local bank funding prior to securing the construction loan through Rural Development. A letter had been sent to both Mason City National Bank and Easton Community Bank asking for funding. Mason City National Bank responded with a denial. We are still waiting on a reply from the Easton Community Bank at this time.
- D. Opening Checking Account for Construction Loan - Kate explained that a checking account would need to be opened for the upcoming construction loan from Rural Development. The account would need to be opened with a \$100.00 starting balance. Zain motioned to approve opening a checking account for the construction loan with \$100.00 starting balance. Noah seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.
- E. Water & Waste System Grant Agreement – Kate explained this agreement outlined that the Village has determined to undertake a project to improve the water/sewer system at an estimated cost of \$1,209,000, with not more than \$750,000 of the cost coming from loan funding. The Village also agrees to a sum not to exceed \$459,000 of development costs being from Rural Development grant funding. Charlene motioned to approve the

Water & Waste System Grant Agreement as presented, Eric seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.

- F. Village's Resident Project Representative – The RPR acts as a local liaison/engineer for the construction project. Eric motioned to approve Mike Burris as the Resident Project Representative with Zain seconding the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.
- G. Water System to Use the Streets, Alleys, & Public Right-of-Ways – Eric motioned to approve the Water System to Use the Streets, Alleys, & Public Right-of-Ways form as presented, Zain seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

13. **Executive Session:** None Held.

14. **Continue Meeting:** Eric motioned at 7:34 p.m. to continue the meeting on July 24th at 6:00 p.m. Noah seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2023.

Joanna Mustered – Village Clerk