

Village of Easton

Regular Meeting – August 3, 2020

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held August 3, 2020. The meeting was held in the Village Hall and called to order at 7:01 p.m. Those in attendance were President Kate Nunn, Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Eric Ratliff, Kent Gray, Zain Attebery, Don Mustered and Brock Riggins. Others in attendance were Chief Buddy Willis, Josh Walters, Judy Miller, and Joanna Mustered.

Public: Richard DeVore.

2. Cindy Foote, CPA with the accounting firm Zumbahlen, Eyth, Surratt, & Foote, Ltd., presented the FY2020 audit findings. 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 of accounting, as outlined in the Independent Auditor's Report she provided.

3. Minutes of the regular meeting held July 6, 2020 were read. Brock motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Zain seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. All bills were given to the Trustees for review and approval. Joanna explained that monthly expenses were normal for all funds. Charlene motioned to approve all the bills as presented. Eric seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 6-0.

4. **Street Department:** Josh reported that he trimmed low lying branches around town that hung over streets and alley ways.

Water/Sewer Department: Josh presented the bids he received for replacing pipes in the sewer lagoons. G.A. Rich - \$6,593 for one pipe or both pipes for \$13,186 (not to exceed this amount). Petersburg Plumbing - \$7,500 for one pipe or both pipes for \$15,000 (not to exceed this amount). Eric made a motion to accept the lowest bid from G.A. Rich and move forward with this project. Don seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 6-0.

Josh informed the board that he had several complaints from residents regarding poor drainage after several heavy rains in the last month. Josh procured bids to have several of the sewer lines inspected with a camera and cleaned. The bids included: Petersburg Plumbing - \$580/hr or \$4,640 for 8 hrs of work. G.A. Rich also provided a bid - \$550/hr or \$4,400 for 8 hrs of work. Part of the problem of the drainage includes a sewer drain on South 2nd Street. Petersburg Plumbing recommended replacing and raising this drain with an estimated cost of \$5,236 to replace and rebuild. In addition, there is a rail road tie that is wedged in this drain. However, the amount of obstruction from the rail road tie is minimal. Brock suggested looking at options to remove the rail road tie first to try to improve water flow instead of replacing the drain at this time. This issue will be revisited at the next regular meeting.

Scott DeSplinter advised Josh they are now starting on the grant paperwork and will have a timeline to present to the board by the next meeting.

6. **Animal/Insect Report:** Don Osborne has been doing routine spraying for mosquitos as normal. No animal control calls.

7. **Police Department:** Chief Willis read the police report as presented. He noted the part time roster report has been sent to the state as required. He completed Crisis Intervention Training in July. He shared with the board several prices for used cars being sold by the Missouri Highway Patrol. He said when it is time to replace the village squad car, Sheriff Gann recommended looking into this option.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the reports. She noted that the General Fund received the first distribution of property taxes of approximately \$8,000 and a check from income taxes of approximately \$3,000. All other funds were normal. A motion was made by Kent and seconded by Charlene to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

9. **Old Business:**

A. None.

10. **New Business:**

A. Illini Central School District #189 Donation for Masks – Kate explained she received a call regarding a donation request of \$100 to help purchase masks for Illini Central students and staff. Eric made a motion to donate \$100 for the purchase of masks for the school district. Brock seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

B. Village Joining Lawsuit on Opioid Manufacturers – Attorney Lindner contacted the Village regarding a lawsuit the Village can participate in with no cost to the Village, other than filing fees (\$250). He recommended the Village participate as the maximum amount possibly awarded can be up to \$30,000. Don made a motion to participate in the lawsuit against the opioid manufacturers as recommended by Atty. Lindner. Zain seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

C. Water Rate Review – Kate recommended entering into closed session for this discussion.

11. **Executive Session:** At 8:17 p.m., Eric motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss water rates, with Don seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Regular Session resumed at 8:56 p.m.

New Business 10-C: Charlene made a motion to approve raising the water/sewer rates as follows: Base Rate of \$32.56 for 1,000 gallons, with each additional 1,000 gallons charged at a rate of \$17.28 effective August 1, 2020. Eric seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and carried 6-0.

12. **Public Comments/Suggestions:** A resident inquired about the fluctuation of his water bills the last few months and if they had been estimated. Josh informed him that bills have not been estimated for several months.

13. **Adjourn:** Kent motioned at 8:59 p.m. to adjourn meeting. Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2020.

Joanna Mustered – Village Clerk