

Village of Easton

Regular Meeting – September 8, 2020

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held September 8, 2020. The meeting was held in the Village Hall and called to order at 7:20 p.m. Those in attendance were President Kate Nunn, Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Kent Gray, Zain Attebery, Don Mustered and Brock Riggins. Absent: Eric Ratliff. Others in attendance were Chief Buddy Willis, Josh Walters, Judy Miller, and Joanna Mustered.

Public: None.

2. Minutes of the regular meeting held August 3, 2020 were read. Don motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Kent seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. All bills were given to the Trustees for review and approval. Joanna explained all bills were normal for the month. She also informed the board that PPE supplies for the meetings were purchased, of which the masks were not delivered, Quill will be issuing a credit for this purchase. Kate noted that the Village received a letter from the Havana Chamber of Commerce requesting a donation for the 2021 fireworks display. It was noted in the prior year the Village donated \$150 to both the Havana Chamber and Convoy for Kids in Mason City for their fireworks display as well. Don mentioned that Convoy for Kids in Mason City receives less money for their fireworks as they are a smaller community and recommended the Village only donate to their fireworks display for next year. Don motioned to donate \$200 to Convoy for Kids in Mason City for their fireworks display and to approve all the bills as presented. Charlene seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.

4. **Street Department:** Josh informed the board that there is a tree on the corner of Palmer and South 3rd Street that could be a hazard in the near future and he had received a quote from Randy's Tree Service to remove this tree. The project would cost between \$975 and \$1,300, going off the company's hourly rate of \$375/hr. Charlene motioned to approve the tree removal by Randy's Tree Service at the approximate cost of \$975 - \$1,300. Kent seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.

Water/Sewer Department: Josh met with CMT to go over details for the new aeration system. They also spoke about removing the walls of the wet well to provide more space in the building since the new system will be outside.

6. **Animal/Insect Report:** Nothing to report.

7. **Police Department:** Chief Willis read the police report as presented. He mentioned that the department has been busy following up on the weeds/grass ordinance violations. He also noted that the squad car needs emissions work. The car dies when idling and to correct this problem the emissions repair would cost approximately \$1,270.07 as quoted by Arnold's Service. Don

motioned to approve Arnold's Service to repair the emissions issue. Brock seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.

8. **Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the reports. She noted that the General Fund was up due to a large amount of income from property taxes and income taxes. All other funds were normal. A motion was made by Kent and seconded by Zain to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

9. **Old Business:**

A. Weeds Ordinance – Attorney Lindner prepared a new ordinance for the Village, including changing the maximum height of weeds/grass from 10 inches to 8 inches, also including a variation in the days between a notice to abate and issuing a citation. This ordinance also includes fallen trees, limbs, and accumulated brush. Charlene motioned to approve this new ordinance and rescind ordinances #457 and #457A. Don seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

B. Grass Clippings Ordinance – This ordinance allows for a citation to be issued without a prior warning if grass is blown onto any street, alley, or boulevard within the Village or upon any property owned by the Village. Brock motioned to approve this ordinance, seconded by Zain. Motion carried with all ayes.

10. **New Business:**

A. Approve Seal Coating Bid - Josh presented the low bid from IRC for seal coating. Don motioned to accept the low bid of \$31,937.85 from IRC contingent upon IDOT approval and the required protest timeframe of 8 business days, as well as discussion of improvements to the 300 block of South 2nd St. Zain seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

B. Action on Delinquent Water Bills – Kate explained that there are currently 15 households in the Village with delinquent water bill balances, totaling \$885.00. She recommended any charge over the minimum should be paid in full within the next three months. Notification letters for these households will be sent out later this month. Reconnection fee of \$50 and late fees will resume on the October billings. Don motioned to send notification letters to those with delinquent water bills explaining that the prior amount due over the minimum charge of \$32.56 will be expected to be paid in full within 3 months of the notice. Kent seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

C. Updating Zoning Ordinance - Tabled

D. Pay Increases for Elected Officials – Charlene motioned to increase the pay for newly elected Village Trustee positions to \$50/meeting, increase the Village Clerk pay to \$250/meeting, and increase the Village President pay to \$275/meeting. Salary changes will be effective May 1, 2021. Brock seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried 5-0.

11. **Public Comments/Suggestions:** Kate shared with the board an anonymous letter the Village had received regarding a citizen's opinion of the Village's police department.

13. **Adjourn:** Kent motioned at 8:22 p.m. to adjourn meeting. Zain seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2020.

Joanna Mustered – Village Clerk