

## **Village of Easton**

### **Regular Meeting – September 10, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held July 2, 2018. The meeting was held in the Village Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Eric Ratliff, Kent Gray, Dixie Riegel and Brock Riggins. Others in attendance were Josh Walters, Chief Buddy Willis and Kate Nunn.

Absent: Joanna Mustered, Larry Kolves and Judy Miller

Public: Richard DeVore

2. Dixie motioned to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held August 6<sup>th</sup> and the special meeting held on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Eric seconded the motion and the motion was carried with all ayes.

3. All bills were given to the Trustees for review and approval. Kent made the motion to approve all bills as presented. Motion seconded by Brock. Voice vote taken and approved 5-0.

4. **Water/Sewer Department:** Josh has received most of the Water Quality Report from Grosch. Josh has talked to Mike Burris who directed Josh to contact Bill Brown with CMT for Bill to contact the EPA to try to get a verbal consent/permit to allow us to begin using the new well. The new well will need to be up and running in order to be able to flush the hydrants as scheduled. Josh noted that the list is growing of residents that are not paying their water/sewer bills. He will be sending out collection letters to those that have an outstanding balance equal to or greater than \$100.

Josh received information from Scott Desplinter with CMT that the EPA would allow us not to have the well in operation by January 18, 2019 as previously required but it must still be fully operational by the original completion date of April 18, 2019.

Kate will talk with Louie Wagner, Manager of the Easton Grain Elevator, to present the Village's need to place the new backwash tanks on the north side of the water plant that is on property owned by the elevator. The Village would ask for their consideration to hold a special meeting to review the Village's proposal to purchase an 80' x 55' area north of the water plant that is needed to install the new tanks.

Finance options were discussed. Kate had contacted IL Rural Development but they did not have any grants available at this time as they are near the end of their fiscal year end plus they typically require that any funds not covered by their grant be financed through them. The application process for a grant can take 6-10 months to complete. Judy had talked to Bruce McClernon at the Community Bank of Easton. He is willing to provide financing of this project but stated that the Village would need to find out what percentage of the tax base we can borrow. If allowable he would approve a rate of 3.75% on a 15 year note with a 5 year balloon. Kate contacted the Village attorney, Blake Lindner, who stated that since this installation is being mandated by the IEPA the limitation on municipal indebtedness does not apply thus the Village is allowed to borrow whatever funds are needed to complete this project.

**Street Department:** Josh noted that IRC had seal coated the designated streets per the bid but they did not do the radius for the streets on the south side of Route 10 nor did they do the entire street on Palmer between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. A representative from IRC will be here this week to evaluate the work that had been done.

**5. Animal/Insect Report:** Donald Osborne is continuing to spray for mosquitos. It was noted that wildlife has been seen at the property on Mason Street just east of Cleo Clark's property. Need to have Donald place traps at the back side of the house and near the garage door.

**6. Police Department:** As noted in the monthly report. Chief Willis has been in contact with the residents at 305 East Mason Street about removing trash and box springs from the yard. The property also has a tree down in the back yard plus the back yard is not being mowed. As nothing has been done, Buddy will be talking to them again. Buddy will also address the unmowed yard and a vehicle parked on the sidewalk at 303 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Buddy noted that Brenden will be working full time at the Correctional Facility and once Brenden knows his work schedule there, then he will be able to determine when he can work more hours for the Village.

**7. Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the reports. The General Fund received property tax monies of \$3,710.30. The Water/Sewer Fund expenses were higher than normal due to a payment to Grosch but had normal income receipts for the month. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund had normal income and expenses. Charlene motioned to approve the Treasurer's reports as presented. Motion seconded by Eric and carried with all ayes.

**8. Old Business:**

- A. Eric reported that Brian Shawgo provided an estimated bid of \$1,900 to remove and replace 100' x 4' of sidewalk. Charlene motioned to accept the bid with Kent seconding the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Eric intends to look at other areas in need of work as there will be approximately \$3,000 remaining the in sidewalk budget.
- B. In order to slow traffic on Mason Street, Eric motioned to install a 3 way stop at the intersections of Hayes and Mason Streets and at Elm and Mason Streets. Charlene seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.
- C. It has been found that Attorney Steve Morgan of Havana is the contact person for the Danny Richardson property at 406 East Mason Street. The estate attorney in California is purportedly stating to all parties to "stay off the property". Kate is to contact Attorney Morgan regarding the cleanup and mowing of said property. The Collander property at 401 East Mason may be up for tax sale. Kate is to verify that information.

**9. New Business:**

- A. Dixie motioned to order 20 flags from AmericanFlags.com at a price of \$28.90 each. Josh is to check to see if any brackets need to be order along with the flags. Brock seconded the motion. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5-0
- B. Joanna is researching options for a new vendor for the printer/copier machine and will present results at the October meeting.
- C. Discussion on proposed sales tax for the Village is on hold until October.
- D. Chief Willis does not feel that that another officer needs to be hired at this time as Brenden is now able to work hours during the week and Buddy will cover on the weekends.

**10. Comments/Suggestions:** Richard DeVore inquired about sidewalks that are overgrown with grass and who is responsible for maintaining and clearing the sidewalks. Trustees informed him that maintenance of the sidewalks is the responsibility of the homeowner/resident. Although if anyone knows of students needing to use Community hours, they can be used to assist in the cleanup of such

sidewalks. Richard also brought to the boards' attention that the house on the east corner of Tilden and 1<sup>st</sup> Street is burning trash again on a daily basis. Buddy will address this issue.

**11. Executive Session:** At 9:22 pm Charlene made the motion to go into executive session to discuss salaries of elected officials

At 9:44 pm regular session was resumed.

**New Business – Item E.** A motion was made by Charlene to increase trustee pay to \$50 per month, the mayor's salary to \$250 per month and pay the Zoning Officer \$200 per year to be effective May 1, 2019 with the Clerk salary to be reviewed in the fall of 2020. Motion seconded by Eric. Voice vote taken and approved 5-0.

**12.** Kent motioned at 9:46 p.m. to continue the meeting. Motion seconded by Eric. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2018.

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Cathy J. Nunn–Village Clerk