

Village of Easton

Regular Meeting – December 4, 2023

The regular meeting of the Easton Board of Trustees was held December 4, 2023. The meeting was held in the Village Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Village President Don Mustered III and Trustees: Charlene Fangmeier, Eric Ratliff, Louis Wagner, Zain Attebery, and Noah Krause. Absent: Brock Riggins. Others in attendance were Josh Walters, Joanna Mustered, Judy Miller, and Chief Robbins.

2. **Public:** Elizabeth Green & Mike Burris – No Comments

3. **Sealed Bid Opening** – 2 Bids were received. \$616.00 and \$2,000. Eric motioned to accept the \$2,000 bid, Noah seconded the motion. Voice vote taken and motion carried with all ayes.

4. **Minutes** of the regular meeting held November 6, 2023 were read. Eric motioned to approve the minutes. Zain seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. All bills were given to the Trustees for review and approval. Joanna explained all 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.

6. **Street Department:** Josh reported had taken down flags. He discussed the storm drain in the alley between South 2nd and South 3rd needs to be rebuilt. He is looking into different ways to do this at this time.

Water/Sewer Department: Josh reported there were problems with the control panel at the treatment plant and Griffin Electric fixed the issue. He also noted that some meters are not reading correctly. Don recommended buying new meters to replace the ones that are not working properly. Eric motioned to purchase 3 new meters, Noah seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

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

8. **Police Department:** Chief Robbins explained the police report as presented. He is continuing to work on ongoing ordinance violations at this time.

9. **Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the reports. She noted that all funds were normal. She also noted that the village received rent from FS in the amount of \$550.00 and \$856.00 for rent from Sherman Township. A motion was made by Louis and seconded by Noah to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried with all ayes.

10. **Old Business:**

- A. Water/Sewer Improvement Project – Mike Burris explained that after speaking with Ted LaBelle from CMT it is recommended to continue with all the work that was planned at the water plant. It was also recommended to power wash instead of sand blast the walls, to not install another water main, and to not do any improvements to the elevated water tank. When the new figures are ready they will be presented to the board and Rural Development for grant and loan options to see if the new figures are feasible to continue with the project.
- B. Award of Contract/Bid – Tabled.

11. **New Business:**

- A. Mason County Foundation Grant – Mike Burris explained he will be working to write a grant for the Village to receive funding toward painting and improvements for the elevated tank. He recommended the board purchase the materials and have a contractor do the work needed.
- B. Annual IRWA Conference – Josh explained the annual water conference is coming up in February. Eric motioned to approve payment for expenses incurred for the conference, Zain seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.
- C. Review Closed Minutes – Charlene motioned to keep executive session minutes closed, Louis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.
- D. Paid Leave Act – Joanna explained to the Board that as of Jan. 1, 2024 all employees will receive 1 hour of PTO for every 40 hours worked. She instructed Josh and Chief Robbins to turn in hours for record keeping.
- E. 2024 Meeting Dates – Noah motioned to accept the 2024 Meeting Dates as presented, Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- F. Auditors Preparing Taxes – Joanna explained in 2024 the new law is to electronically file tax forms and that she would like to have the auditors handle the tax filing. She said she may be able to do them this coming year one more time, but for sure would like to switch next year.
- G. 2008 Ford Sealed Bids – See Item 3.

12. Executive Session - None

13. **Continue Meeting:** Noah motioned at 7:42 p.m. to continue the meeting as needed at a later date. Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024.

Joanna Mustered – Village Clerk