VILLAGE BOARD
July 13, 2015

Monday, July 13, 2015, at 7:01 p.m., Mayor Mike Serena called to order the regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Roll call – Commissioners Dick Hileman, Terry Jensen, James Riley, and Mayor Serena. Commissioner Rob Wolf was not present at roll call, but arrived while the meeting was in progress. Also present were Atty. Scott Belt and Village Engineer Guy Christiansen. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of June 22 were presented. Comm. Riley made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Jensen. Roll call - Ayes: Riley, Jensen, Mayor Serena. Pass: Hileman. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The current bills were presented. Comm. Jensen moved to approve the payment of the bills, second by Riley. Roll call - Ayes: Hileman, Riley, Jensen, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Comments – Sgt. Black presented Grundy County Sheriff's Report

Agenda –

Tawnya Mack, of Mack & Assoc., presented the annual audit report for FY 2015, reporting that there were no significant errors or concerns. Comm. Hileman made motion to accept the audit, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Comm. Hileman explained the budget and appropriation ordinance, and identified specific items that were increased. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the budget and appropriation ordinance, second by Jensen. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Comm. Hileman made motion to donate $500 to Coal City for the Tornado Relief Fund, from gaming funds, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business - None

Reports –

Atty. Belt – Has ordered a title report on the Nielsen property to verify ownership. The tax record shows that it is owned by a corporation. He pointed out that there would need to be a stated public purpose for a land purchase by the Village and it should be cited in the motion. If the purpose is deemed to be off-street parking, there is a particular act that deals with it and requires review and recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board. The contract to be drawn up will include environmental assessment, clean up and remediation if necessary, and hiring of a qualified expert to render an opinion as to the environmental health of the property, and other professional fees, at Gibs Nielsen's cost. Comm. Hileman suggested that attorney's fees also be included in the contract, and that we obtain a signed contract before proceeding further.

Belt had one other item, but requested a closed session related to pending litigation.

Comm. Hileman – Once again reminded the board that revenues may be down and expenses need to be watched, as the storm sewer project is expected to be around $800,000. Also, we received no notification but learned that the reverse 911 has been done away with when we attempted to use it for the boil order today.

Comm. Jensen – Due to the weather, several alleyways need to be scraped and/or gravel-filled because of potholes.

Comm. Riley – Comm. Riley requested a motion to form a Community Event Committee, subject to Open Meetings Act as far as posting agendas, taking minutes, etc. It was agreed that the committee will not handle any money, but only make recommendations to the board for approval. Comm. Jensen made motion but withdrew it after a discussion on the scope of the committee. Comm. Hileman made motion to table the motion, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Comm. Riley made motion to have Future Tree Service remove tree stumps downtown with the stipulation that they be completely removed not just ground down, second by Hileman. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Comm. Hileman made motion to waive the demolition permit fee for the Nielsen property as an inclusion in the contract, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Comm. Wolf – Has been made aware of issues in Coal City and Diamond related to insurance coverage following the tornadoes. A discussion was held regarding our ordinances concerning dangerous buildings.

Engineer Christensen – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – The dumpsters that were at the sewer plant following the June 22 flooding took the place of the all-town clean up that had been scheduled for July 20. Also requested that the commissioners keep him in the loop regarding communications with residents.

At 8:10 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of pending litigation, authorized pursuant to Section (2)(c)(1) of The Open Meetings Act, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

At 8:32 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Jensen. . Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding abandoned and inoperable vehicles. Attorney Belt advised that a warrant is required to remove a vehicle from private property; if it is industrial or commercial property, no warrant is required after notice is given.

Comm. Jensen requested that the burning ordinance be amended to include “paper” along with yard waste, to be included as an item on the next agenda.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Jensen, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk
Village of Gardner