VILLAGE BOARD
November 9, 2015

Monday, November 9, 2015, at 7:00 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 Terry Jensen, James Riley, Dick Hileman, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Mike Serena. Atty. Scott Belt arrived later in the meeting and Village Engineer Guy Christensen was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of October 26 were presented. Comm. Jensen made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Riley. Roll call - Ayes: Jensen, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Pass: Hileman. Nays: none. Motion carried.

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

The financial report was presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the financial report, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Comments –

Resident Don Phillips announced the Veteran's Day program to be held at the Fire Department. Resident Patti Pfaff thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for the Halloween candy donated to the Church of Hope Trunk or Treat event. Resident Ida Schopp wished Commissioner Hileman a belated happy birthday and also thanked the board for the candy. Thanked the Mayor for decorating the tree, and Comm. Riley for setting up the tree lighting ceremony. Archives will be open after the Veteran's Day program. She introduced Standard Bank manager Stephanie Coleman to give an update on the festival of trees to run from Monday, November 16 through the evening of the tree lighting, November 29. The bank will be open before the ceremony and raffle and auction winners will be announced following the tree lighting. Resident Terri Balcom addressed the Board regarding the incident of October 23.

Deputy Roach presented the Grundy County Sheriff's report.

Agenda –

A proposed business registration was distributed by Comm. Wolf to each of the commissioners at the previous meeting for their review. Comm. Hileman commented that he liked it because it "had teeth" and would give the Village viable options to remove unwelcome businesses. Comm. Hileman motioned, second by Wolf, to table discussion to the next meeting. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Hileman made motion to accept the changes to the employment policy, second by Riley. Atty. Belt prepared a draft which specifies that Village employees are "at will" employees and gives the Village leverage that was not defined in previous versions. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Hileman made motion to extend free water to residents with December's billing using $7,000 from gaming revenue and $15,000 from the general fund to replenish the water and sewer funds back. Normally the free water runs between $22,800 to $25,000 depending on water usage. If we go over that $22,000, we then use $1,000 water and $1,000 sewer. Mayor Serena wished to make certain this was legally permissible and brought it up to Attorney Belt when he arrived to the meeting. Riley seconded the motion. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Hileman made motion to sign the animal control contract, second by Jensen. The animal control contract went down by $548 from last year. We are better off to have a contract because, if anyone in the village calls animal control, we are charged. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Reports –

Atty. Belt – Introduced Christopher Dearth, new attorney with his office.

Comm. Hileman – Reported on proposed legislation that would affect TIF projects. Any town that has a school that accepts students from another town, as GSW does, must get approval from the other towns before a TIF project can be approved. If this passes, one option would be to go back and cancel the original TIF district that we had and redo it just with the grade school and fire department, which would not include other towns. If South Wilmington and Braceville had their own TIFs, that would also help.

Comm. Jensen – Street lights are out on Depot Street. Brad has called the electrician to get them repaired. A complaint was received regarding the alley being blocked between Cedar and Pine behind Terry Baker's residence. Numerous complaints have been received about intermittent outages on Kraus cable. Addressed Terri Balcolm in regard to her complaint, that the board is powerless because we do not have an ordinance or resolution. He suggested that she call 911 if there are any further complaints and make sure that there is documentation.

Assisted with Comm. Riley on a yard clean-up on East Jefferson, and was later threatened by the resident. Any further confrontations will result in calls to 911.

Comm. Riley – Demolition/clean up work is starting at the house on Jackson Street that had the fire.

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Engineer Christensen – Absent

Clerk Malinowski – Presented a meeting schedule for 2016 for the Board's review. The Mayor pointed out that the office is open on Columbus Day but in the past the board meeting has been cancelled, and would like to reconsider that when finalizing the schedule.

Mayor Serena – Addressed Terri Balcolm regarding the incident and urged residents to call either the Sheriff's non-emergency number or 911 if they see something they feel is not right. Reminded everyone about the Veteran's Day program.

At 7:40 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion, authorized pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, also 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body second by Jensen. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

At 8:55 p.m. Comm. Jensen made motion to reconvene, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk
Village of Gardner