VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
November 13, 2017

Monday, November 13, 2017, 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 Dick Hileman, James Riley, Rob Wolf, Terry Jensen, and Mayor Mike Serena. Also present was Village Engineer Casey McCollom. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

The minutes of October 23, 2017 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Pass: Jensen. Nays: none. Motion carried.

A list of current bills was presented. Comm. Wolf moved to approve the payment of the bills as printed, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Jensen, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurers Report for October was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to approve the Treasurers Report, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Jensen, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Comments –

Resident Ida Schopp reported on the 3rd Festival of Trees to be held November 20 through November 26. Proceeds are targeted toward purchase of a street clock for the community. Final bidding and auction will be after the Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 26.

A representative from Grundy County presented the Sheriff's Department Report for October.

Agenda –

Resident Ronald Crosetto addressed the Board regarding Holt Trucking's use of residential property for commercial use. He had submitted a FOIA request and was told that Holt had not submitted a request for a permit before demolishing a house; it was determined that the permit application was turned in after the FOIA was received. Holt would also need to go through channels, including the P & Z Board, in order to have the zoning changed on several of the properties he owns that are adjacent to his business.

Comm. Wolf made motion to extend free water and sewer to residents on bills for the billing period October 21 through November 20, due December 20, using $13,000 from gaming revenue to offset the water and sewer funds cost and $10,000-$12,000 from the general fund. Riley seconded the motion. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Jensen, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried. The Village has provided this benefit to the residents and businesses since 2007 or 2008.

With a motion by Comm. Hileman and second by Riley, the Board approved the annual tree lighting to be held on Sunday, November 26, at 6:00 p.m. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Jensen, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried. The Lions Club will provide refreshments, Don Phillips will provide audio, Santa will be at Curley's banquet room after the ceremony to visit with children.

Comm. Hileman moved to table a decision on the proposed Ordinance Regarding Construction of Utility Facilities in Rights-of-Way, to allow a review by the Board and legal representation, and revisit at the next Board Meeting, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Jensen, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

AT&T has a pending permit request, however, the current franchise agreement does not adequately protect the Village in the event of damage by the contractor. It was decided to contact AT&T to authorize a one-time deal for this permit only with the understanding that they will pay any liabilities if their contractor hits any water lines, sewer lines or storm sewer lines or other utilities.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was presented.

Reports –

Atty. Belt – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Appropriations are coming up. He requested that the commissioners contact him if they wish to change the current taxing amount of $73,200. The tax levy and assessments ordinance must be adopted by the last Tuesday in December and will be on the agenda for November 27 for approval.

The next court date for O'Hare Towing is December 8 at 9:00 a.m., postponed from the November 3rd date. The Board intends to pursue this issue to get the property cleaned up.

We had a grant from the federal government dating from 1992. A letter from the state of Illinois has been received that reporting is no longer necessary, the fund is considered closed. The money now belongs to the Village and we can do what we want with it, including loaning it if we wish, provided we comply with state guidelines.

The Treasurers Report shows that we are running heavy in TIF checking account fund which is roughly $450,000, and he will be moving some to savings or a CD because we have nothing coming up until springtime.

Comm. Jensen – Questioned the amount of legal fees that have been expended for the railroad project.

Comm. Riley – He has contacted several residents regarding vehicle and camper issues. One more on Dwight Street will be contacted.

Comm. Wolf – The water tower cleaning company came out again but did not perform the job, again citing safety concerns. He will research other companies to do the job.

Engineer McCollom – The elevator demolition contract has been signed and work will start after Thanksgiving, to be completed by December 30. The contactor reported to IDOT that the railroad work has been completed. Will survey for the water main project to be bid around February.

Clerk Malinowski – Tom Perkins has requested the use of the Archives on November 25 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm after the Route 66 Riviera sign dedication, and is open to the public.

Mayor Serena – Casey's will use the board room for an employee meeting on Wednesday morning, November 15. Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Riley, that the Mayor will have the authority to grant permission to various groups requesting the use of the board room. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Jensen. Pass: Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried

A Veteran's Day program was held at the American Legion on Saturday, November 11, at 11:00 a.m.

Ida Schopp wished to thank Mr. & Mrs. Terry Baker for their donation of 14 strings of LED Christmas lights to the Village.

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: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, Jensen, Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk