VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
April 9, 2018

Monday, April 9, 2018, at 7:02 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 Rob Wolf, Dick Hileman, James Riley, and Mayor Mike Serena. Comm. Terry Jensen was absent. Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Attorney Scott Belt were also in attendance. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of March 26, 2018 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hileman, Riley, and Mayor Serena. 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 Hileman. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hileman, Riley, and Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Treasurers Report for March was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hileman, Riley, and Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Comments –

Resident Don Phillips addressed the Board regarding the Holt property. He feels that the rezoning is a good idea because it is important to have commercial development in town and there is already something there. However, currently it is "disgusting" and requested that the Board consider putting some time constraints to have the property cleaned up.

Resident Bonnie Crosetto also addressed the Board regarding the Holt property. She presented a petition and said that people who signed it are not happy about the rezoning.

Resident Heather Wolf said that she has the same opinion as Don Phillips and requested that a time limit be placed and asked if any plans had been presented.

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

Agenda –

Resident Ozzy Masquida addressed the board regarding problems with a neighbor's dog coming into his yard. That dog has lunged at his wife and also attacked his dog, resulting in hospitalization. Grundy County would not issue a citation or call Animal Control because we do not have a contract. He took a copy of the officer's report along with the vet bill to Animal Control and was told their truck would never come to Gardner.

He was advised by Belt that Gardner residents pay taxes to Grundy County, a portion of which supports Animal Control. Hileman related several incidents from the past where Animal Control did not respond satisfactorily and mentioned that there are other municipalities that do not have contracts. Gardner had requested negotiating the contract to reduce the number of patrols or perhaps pay on a per-call basis. Belt advised that the county has misinterpreted what their obligation is. The contract referenced was for routine patrol or requests from the Village to pick up a stray animal, as opposed to a dog bite situation. The state statue indicates that when there is a dog bite, the authority over animals (which is Animal Control), whether or not a contract is in place, has an obligation to take possession of the animal, hold the animal and would have to do an assessment to determine whether that dog is vicious, which they haven't done in this situation. Separately, the Village does have a contract with the Sheriff's department for law enforcement services which would include issuing citations under the Village code which, in this case, would include dog running at large or having too many dogs. The fact that there is not a routine Animal Control contract does not relieve the Sheriff's Department from enforcing the contract the Village does have in place with the Sheriff's Department to enforce Village ordinances.

Comm. Wolf made motion to waive the water service and sewer rate increase, second by Hileman. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hileman, Riley, and Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Mayor Serena offered to allow Mr. Holt five minutes to present his side on the rezoning issue. Holt stated that he has put money into the property since he acquired it and agreed with some of what the residents said, that it does look bad at times because he is out of room. He explained the nature of his business and invited anyone who has a problem with the issue or the property to come and talk to him to try to resolve the problem. The next item on the agenda was discussion and possible approval of the Planning & Zoning Board recommendation associated with the Holt property. Comm. Wolf made motion to table the issue until the full board is present, which died for lack of a second. Hileman made comment regarding Holt's generosity several ways. He also pointed out that he is not here to give a plan, he is here to get his zoning request approved. Before he does anything to the property, he must follow codes and guidelines that are in place. Belt inquired whether a copy of the petition had been served on him by certified mail and it had not. Wolf made comment that he hoped he would take the residents seriously and keep it nice. Comm. Riley made motion to approve the recommendation, second by Hileman. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, and Mayor Serena. Nays: Wolf. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was presented.

Reports –

Atty. Belt – Nothing

Comm. Hileman – First National Bank of Dwight has been sold to Peoples Bank of Kewanee. They cannot federalize our money and have to go through a third party in Madison, Wisconsin, to guarantee our money.

Comm. Jensen – Absent

Comm. Riley – Did follow-ups on letters. Nothing has been done on the Jefferson Street and Dwight Street properties. Belt has been directed to take legal action.

Comm. Wolf – The water tower inspection was done on March 27 but no report has been received yet.

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – The new copier to be delivered tomorrow and training to take place.

Mayor Serena – Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor event is coming up. Suggested a community service project of cleaning up. The schools used to do it and some courts had ordered it in the past, but it has become a liability issue in recent years. Belt also pointed out there would be an obligation of supervision, instruction, oversight, notice of certain conditions, and risk of liability.

At 7:56 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of The Open Meetings Act, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hileman, Riley, and Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

At 8:20 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hileman, Riley, and 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: Comm. Wolf, Hileman, Riley, and Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk