VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
April 23, 2018

Monday, April 23, 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 Terry Jensen, Dick Hileman, James Riley, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Mike Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Attorney Scott Belt were also in attendance. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for Kinsman Mayor Mark Harlow.

The minutes of April 9, 2018 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Wolf, and Mayor Serena. Pass: Jensen. Nays: none. Motion carried.

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

Public Comments –

Hometown Storage owner Charles Dennison addressed the board seeking relief on his real estate taxes. He explained that he wanted to expand his business by purchasing adjoining property but his taxes in Gardner are much higher than in Diamond and Braidwood. Mayor Serena explained that other taxing bodies take increases, but the Village has levying authority on only a small portion of the tax bills and those rates have not been increased in 19 years. The Mayor offered to sit down with him along with Comm. Hileman to discuss opportunities.

Agenda –

Comm. Hileman made motion to grant permission to the Disabled Veterans to solicit donations for "Forget-me-nots" during the Red Carpet event, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, and Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was presented.

Reports –

Atty. Belt – Nothing

Comm. Hileman – New Village employee health insurance rates were received and increased approximately 5%.

Comm. Jensen – Requested a status on the O'Hare Towing court order and was advised that it would be discussed in executive session.

He received a call from Mr. Terry Baker regarding Mr. Kelly, his neighbor, digging across the alley. Grundy County Sheriff's Department was called and Village maintenance worker Justin Schultz was also down there. Comm. Hileman told Justin to tell the deputy it was Village property and they did not have a right to dig on it unless they came to the Village for authorization. Jensen remarked that the alley might have to be shut down.

Comm. Riley – At the last meeting he brought up several properties requiring action. He asked the Board whether it would be more feasible to take action on all of them at once, or to prioritize and pursue the most critical two or three. Hileman commented that we have been after Don Reed for the past three years. One vehicle has been sitting there ever since the first time we took him to court. The second time, he was asked to move some of the vehicles and turn barrels upside down. Some of the vehicles don't have license stickers on them and some of them are wrecked. Jensen added that it is worse now than it has ever been. Another property on Jefferson Street has a van sitting there for almost two years with no motor in it or front on it. There is another house on Center Street near the grade school that is a mess with junk in the yard. Also, several trailers are parked on the street in front of houses; the ordinance states that they must be in the side yard or back yard. Jensen mentioned that there are properties where construction has taken place

without obtaining a permit. He will provide a list with addresses and letters will be sent and permit fees will be doubled. Riley will direct Belt to take legal action on the two worst properties, with Don Reed the first priority. Hileman said to get on it tomorrow and not wait another week.

Comm. Wolf – The water tower report has been received from Preferred Tank & Tower and there are several issues that need to be addressed. The sediment needs to be cleaned out of the bottom, Wolf will get a quotation on that and also patching the inside. The water tower will need to be drained and shut down for a week and a half to two weeks. Maintenance employee Brad Kingma added that it might be beneficial to install a ladder on the inside and a frost free vent at the top.

Casey McCollom – Brandt Excavating is looking at mid-July to do the Watermain project in order to do it all in one shot. Hileman was displeased with this schedule, as it was thought that the job would be finished before school starts. He said that on future jobs a start date and finish date need to be established before putting out to bid. He is trying to manage the money and could have put some in CDs but held out because he thought there might be some payments due in May.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor event is May 5 and is only one day this year. There will be a car show and the Archives will be open. Paint has been purchased for the Route 66 signs to be painted on the roads. He will ask Maintenance to clean up the streets that make up the route.

At 7:21 p.m. Comm. Jensen made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and 5ILCS120/2(c)11 of The Open Meetings Act, second by Riley. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Jensen, Hileman, Riley, Wolf, and Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried.

At 9:02 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Jensen. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Riley, Jensen, and Mayor Serena. (Comm. Wolf left during closed session.) Nays: none. Motion carried.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Jensen, second by Hileman. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Jensen, Hileman, Riley, and Mayor Serena. Nays: none. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk