VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
July 22, 2019

Monday, July 22, 2019, 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 Erik Smith, Dick Hileman and Mayor Mike Serena. (Commissioner Rob Wolf arrived at 7:03 p.m., after the bills were presented.) Commissioner Tim Hill was absent. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present and Attorney Scott Belt was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of July 8, 2019 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Pass: Wolf. Nays: None. Motion passed.

A list of current bills was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to approve the payment of the bills, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments –

Resident Regina Chase addressed the board regarding the street light that is out on the corner Liberty Street and Jackson, where her business is located. She also asked what is the current policy regarding filling pools from the fire hydrants. Comm. Hileman explained that this practice was allowed in the past but was discontinued by a motion from the Board because it caused water leaks and rust in the water.

Agenda –

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the Appropriations Ordinance No. 2019-07 for the fiscal year 2020, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Smith, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman moved to upgrade Village-owned street lights uptown plus the lights at the maintenance shop, Village Hall, water plant, sewer plant, and parks, from the General Fund, second by Wolf. Com Ed has a rebate program for upgrading to LED which amounts to $6,020 for the Village. The price for the lights, the installation, change-over, etc., after the rebate, comes to $18,865.05, which is a four-year savings on electricity. If passed tonight, we would need to pay 50% down. It would be around August 20 – 23 before the supplies come in and they will get the final okay from Com Ed. In the past four years we have paid Mid-Illinois Electric close to $6,000 to come up and repair street lights. There is a five-year guarantee on the new lights. On top of all that, we signed papers back in March for Com Ed to come in before the end of the year to replace all of their lights. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Smith, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Resident Michael Pokornicki once again addressed the Board regarding the cutting of the trees on the Village easement at his address. He stated that he is accusing the Board of "political terrorism." As far as the damage to his house, he told Rankovich to leave it alone because WBBM Channel 2 News is going to come down and take pictures.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was presented.

Reports –

Atty. Belt – Absent

Comm. Hileman – He has been approached regarding the empty lot next to the apartments across from the Fire Department, owned by Sean Murphy, needs to be cleaned up. He rode around town

and found about 15 junk cars. There are still chickens in town. There are many properties with grass that needs to be cut. An effort needs to be made to clean up the Village.

Comm. Smith – He is looking in a company regarding offering water payments online. The upfront cost is $5,000, $350/month for the billing module, website option is an additional $400 on the set-up and $180 per month, three-year contract, 3% a year or when the contract is renewed. Training would be on-site. A convenience fee could be added to those who use the service. We are currently using Locis with an annual license fee of around $3,000.

Comm. Hill – Absent

Comm. Wolf – J & A Landscaping is cutting the grass at Holt, and reported that it is too rough to cut where Brandt did work. Brandt rolled the area on Saturday.

Comm. Hileman added that the Board needs to do something with the building permits. It is six weeks since Conger was supposed to come in to get a permit. There are pools being installed among other things for which permits have not been requested or issued. Grass needs to be mowed at the boat storage place, too.

Casey McCollom – Absent

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena: Received a thank-you from the Basketball league for our donation. IDOT has named a new engineer who covers this area. We have received correspondence from IDOT that they will be resurfacing the Grundy County section of I-55, basically from Reed Road to the Livingston County line. The Railroad will be doing upgrades to the crossings, trains will not exceed 90 mph.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Wolf, second by Hileman. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Smith, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk