VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
February 24, 2020

Monday, February 24, 2020, 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, Rob Wolf, Tim Hill, Dick Hileman, and Mayor Mike Serena. Village Attorney Scott Belt was absent. Village Attorney Casey McCollom was present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of February 10, 2020 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Abstain: Smith. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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

The Treasurer's Report for the month of January was presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments –

Resident Bradley Kingma presented a list of properties which have had generators installed. Five were done with permits, including Brad and his father. However, 20 did not, and he and his father are requesting a refund. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the necessity of requiring a permit for generators, whether inspections were ever done (no), and whether to expect payment for permits years afterward or process a refund, interpretation of the ordinance for electrical services, etc. A review of the building permit ordinance states that there should be a permit for electrical services – any work performed on the service, including rewiring. Swimming pools should also be inspected, including the temporary pools that are plugged with an extension cord. A decision was made to contact Joel Maxard, the electrical inspector, to determine the need to obtain inspection for this type of equipment and a permit. If the building inspector is asked an electrical question, he should refer the requester to the electrical inspector.

In years passed, when a permit was pulled, the inspectors reviewed it and then it went to the Board for approval. At times it took six to eight weeks to get an okay. Approximately 18 years ago, it was decided that it would be up to the inspectors to approve the permit in order to keep the process moving. There were no problems with the process until about three or four years ago.

Agenda –

Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Wolf, to approve engineering fees for a new water tower. Casey McCollom, Village Engineer, estimated the fees at around $80,000. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf reported that a quotation for maintenance on the present water tower came in at around $75,000. Discussions came up during the TIF joint review meeting. Hileman discussed with the TIF attorney regarding TIF funds that could be allocated for this. In the original 1986 agreement, the present water tower was built in 1944, which would make it 76 years. By the time a new one could be built in another year or two, we're talking around 80 years. The tower has a false bottom so it doesn't hold the water one would think. The last time an inspection was done there were some safety concerns. Word is that South Wilmington spent around $700,000. We have $1.4 million in TIF. If the tower costs $1 million, we can use roughly $800,000 from TIF money. The rest would have to come from the water fund or general fund, but we would have enough to pay cash.

We use between 110,000 to 130,000 gallons a day, so capacity should be around 150,000 to 170,000 gallons. The first step would be to send a plan to the EPA for a permit, then that plan would be a bid spec which would be put out for bid. Contractors would bid with their proposals

based on that spec. There would be a three to four month lead time before parts start showing up. Water and sewer tie-ins would be included in the pricing. Casey will also look into costs of the tower in general.

Unfinished Business:

Comm. Wolf made motion to donate $100 to the Trap Shooting Team (tabled at the last meeting), second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: Hileman. Motion passed.

Reports –

Atty. Belt – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Comm. Hileman directed the clerk to read a list of letters that have been sent (Conger, Dwyer, Hill, Murphy, O'Hare Truck Service, Rankovich). O'Hare called Hileman today and discussed a plan for cleaning up the property.

A discussion was held regarding the next step if action is not taken in response to our letters, and issues with our present attorneys. The latest court date with J & A was continued because Judge Sobol recused himself due to a conflict of interest.

Comm. Smith suggested doing research on other law firms who specialize in ordinance violations to handle court cases with no conflict of interest. Comm. Hileman made motion, with a second by Wolf, to table further legal action until Mayor Serena looks into an alternate litigation attorney. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Smith – Inquired about the process to utilize MFT funds. Hileman explained that we would need to know when work is expected to be done. There is around $234,000 in MFT, noting in checking but $57,000 in savings. Hileman suggested Carbon Hill Road from the railroad tracks to 129. Serena has received complaints about the dips on Washington Street.

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Nothing further

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – A thank you card was received from the family of Denice Muzzarelli for the plant.

Mayor Serena – Congratulations to GSW High School girls were regional champions this year and made it to the last game of the sectionals before being defeated. The Village of Lemont donated Christmas decorations to Gardner and were picked up by Maintenance employees.

At 8:35 p.m. Comm. Wolf made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) of The Open Meetings Act – The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

At 9:35 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hileman, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk