VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
September 14, 2020

Monday, September 14, 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 Tim Hill, Dick Hileman, Erik Smith, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Mike Serena. Also in attendance was Village Engineer Casey McCollom. Village Attorney Scott Belt was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of August 24, 2020 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm., Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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., Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for the month of August was presented. Comm. Hileman reported that interest on two CDs were not available for the Treasurer's Report and he had to go to the bank to get that information. Interest on the general fund was $1,019 and the sewer fund was $651. The two CDs were moved by First Midwest Bank from those two funds to the Centennial fund and they can't be returned until February. Comm. Hileman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report with the two addendums, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm., Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Dan Bell addressed the Board regarding a mowing service that started mowing his neighbor's lawn at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday morning and asked if there was a noise ordinance to address that issue. He also commented about the noise generated from the train horns and suggested that they might be suppressed between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Agenda –

Comm. Smith made motion to approve the Knights of Columbus Fund Drive participation for September 18-20, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm., Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Resident Don Phillips addressed the Board regarding the status of the Village response to his August 10, 2020 letter regarding grass clippings. He had received a letter with names of witnesses but no further evidence in the form of dates, times or pictures, and once again demanded a retraction since he maintains that he did not violate the Illinois statute, and said that he would come to every board meeting until he gets satisfaction. Comm. Hileman said that last year it was brought to our attention that the State had passed the law regarding grass clipping and if the Village did not have an ordinance and someone got hurt because of grass clippings, then the Village would be liable. He reported this at a board meeting and Don wrote an article about it in *The Paper*. He stated that he did think that the witnesses were lying, they reported it to us and in order for the Village to protect ourselves, we sent a letter out. We have sent other letters and will continue to do so because if we don't the Village would be liable.

Resident Don Phillips addressed the Board regarding the status of three FOIA requests submitted to the Village related to inspections conducted by the Village, permits issued by the Village and violation notices issued by the Village during the period commencing 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2016 and ending 11:59 p.m, August 14, 2020, with a requested response of September 15, 2020. The responses will not be ready by September 15, and Village Clerk Malinowski presented letters requesting extensions. Phillips said that he would review the letters ad notify the Village if had further questions. Malinowski made the point that she has spent 27 hours so far working on just one of the FOIA requests which have cost Village taxpayers $405. Phillips had no further comments.

Recently Barney Vigna came to the Village hall inquiring when the Village was going to clean the ditch. In 1982 under Mayor Ray Serena, Kathryn Hansen granted an easement to the Village from the railroad tracks to Campus Road at what is Barney Vigna's property. In 1995 her attorney sent a letter to Mayor Von Qualen to have the ditch cleaned and nothing ever happened. Hileman called the Engineer who surveyed what is the Village's property, which is about 10 foot wide from Campus Road going west to the tracks. It hadn't been cleaned in 30-35 years. He contacted Fatlan who said it would take two trucks and a machine at $5,000 per day and they could get it done in two to two-and-a-half days. Hileman said it is our obligation and made motion to have Fatlan clean it, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm., Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Mayor Serena asked about future maintenance as far as mowing. The state does not mow, but our Maintenance employee has suggested that we spray that area. Hileman said that Vigna would not let us dump the mud that they dig out of the ditch, it has to be trucked away. He further explained that the contract grants us (Fatlan) access to maintain the ditch.

Unfinished Business

Reminded the Commissioners to provide input regarding permit fees and inspections.

Reports

Atty. Belt – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Nothing further

Comm. Smith – Inquired regarding responsibility to maintain the weeds along the railroad ditch to the back of houses behind his house. Barney Vigna and Woodcock currently own that property. Mayor Serena stated that the railroad should take care of the property inside the fence and the property owners should maintain outside the fence.

Comm. Hill – Nothing

Comm. Wolf – Cooper's is about cleared out and has been sold

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Asked Hileman the status of the sewer plant – a new pump was installed last week and it is up and running. The computers that run the water plant and sewer plant are installed. The previous pump was pumping 210 gallons/minute, the new one does 825 gallons/minute. There are no grease fitting on it, they need to be maintained every five years. The other pump is due in September 20. Casey is working with the supplier on the two new plants for the water plant to service the new tower. When we had the storm, lightning hit the well and the circuit breaker was tripped.

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., Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk