VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
September 28, 2020

Monday, September 28, 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 Dick Hileman, Rob Wolf, Tim Hill, and Mayor Mike Serena. Comm. Erik Smith arrived at 7:05 p.m. Also in attendance was Village Engineer Casey McCollom. Village Attorney Scott Belt was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of September 14, 2020 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm., Hill, Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. 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 Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm., Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Hileman pointed out that there was a little over $300,000 in TIF payments to Gardner South Wilmington High School, Gardner Grade School and the Gardner Fire District.

Public Comments

Resident Tim Wagner thanked the Board for sending the grass clippings letter to Don Phillips; there have been no clipping on the street since then. Resident Dennis Banker repeated Wagner's comment and suggested that the matter be put to rest.

Building owner Sheri McPherson addressed the Board regarding 106 Depot Street. She wishes to convert the rear of the first level into an apartment to make it more appealing for rental. The brought up several other buildings in the business district that have ground level apartments. Those apartments were in place before the zoning ordinance was passed. The mayor suggested that she seek a zoning variance from the planning and zoning board, however, there are fees involved with that process.

Agenda –

Comm. Hileman made motion to set Trick or Treat hours for 2:00-5:00 p.m. on October 31. No second was made so Hileman withdrew his motion. Comm. Wolf made motion to set the hours for 3:00-6:00 p.m., second by Hill. Roll call: Ayes – Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Mayor Serena presented door hangers that residents could use to indicate that they are not participating in Trick or Treat, which will be available free of charge at the Village Hall.

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve an All-Town Clean-Up for November 9, second by Smith. Roll call: Ayes – Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Mayor Serena has been approached by LyondellBasell to donate a micro-pantry to be installed at a location in the Village. The Grundy Community Foundation has offered to host the site if the Village would prefer it at somewhere other than the Village Hall. Several sites were discussed including the Fire Station. Comm. Hileman made motion to accept the donation but table the decision as to location, second by Hill. Roll call: Ayes – Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Resident Don Phillips declined further comment regarding the grass clippings letter, but 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. Village Clerk Malinowski had presented letters requesting extensions to October 15 at the September 14 meeting. However, those letters stated a five-day extension which has obviously passed at this date. Malinowski explained that she had copied and pasted from another letter and hadn't

proofread the letter before presenting it to Phillips, but confirmed that the responses would be done by October 15.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented

Reports

Atty. Belt – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Reported that the Village will have approximately $500,000 to be paid by the end of the year for water tower expenses. Funds are available but he is checking on funding for remaining payments in 2021. In tonight's bills payment was made for the sewer plant of around $40,000, and the other pump will be installed October 5 or 6 which will be another $40,000 by the end of October. New stainless steel covers for the water plant salt bins have been installed. A power surge tripped the lift station out at Dibble. Future water and sewer plants, and other water systems will be on a notification system to the maintenance employees.

Comm. Smith – He has received inquiries regarding internet options other than Kraus, due to COVID require in-home learning. Hileman stated that the Kraus contract can be cancelled at any time and mentioned that there are other options available even with the Kraus contract in effect. We do not have enough customers within the Village for Comcast.

Comm. Hill – He has received several comments regarding traffic of motorcycles and four-wheelers in the Lincoln/Jefferson/Railroad/Mazon/Jackson/Liberty Streets area. Village Engineer Casey McCollom mentioned other Villages that have a "slow-moving vehicle" ordinance. Mayor Serena mentioned that he would speak to Grundy County Sheriff's Department to try to establish a police presence in the area to discourage the nuisance traffic.

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Leaves are beginning to fall and he requested that residents be considerate when burning. The Village does not have a yard waste pickup service due to the additional cost.

At 7:42 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) of The Open Meetings Act, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Comm. Wolf left at 8:55 p.m.

At 9:00 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to spend up to $300 for a plaque and gift cards for Sheryl McDaniel, in appreciation of her 25 years as Village Treasurer, from the scrap fund, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk