VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
December 14, 2020

Monday, December 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 October 26, 2020 were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Pass: Hill, Smith. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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

The Treasurer's Reports for the months of October and November were presented. Comm. Wolf moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

No public comments were presented

Agenda –

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve an ordinance for the levy and assessment of taxes for the 2021 fiscal year, keeping it the same as the past several years, second by Hill. Serena questioned the amount for training. Hileman responded that we pay for a lot of the training out of the water fund and sewer fund, and when it comes to office training, it is paid out of the general fund unless it relates to Locis reporting for water, then it would be paid out of the water fund. But most of the training done in the last four years has not cost us anything. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to pay a Christmas bonus of $125 to full time employees and $100 to part time, to be taken from the scrap fund (currently around $700), second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve funds for the holiday decoration contest in the amounts of $100 for first, $75 for second and $50 for third place, to be paid using gambling funds, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Judging will be done on December 22.

Comm. Hileman made motion to accept the 2021 meeting schedules for the Village Board and Planning and Zoning Board, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Resident Don Phillips had several items on the agenda, but was not present at the meeting to discuss them.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented

Reports

Atty. Belt – Absent

Comm. Hileman – CDs are coming due December 17, one is water fund; one sewer fund for around $125,000 which he will cash in because we are low in the checking account; a TIF coming due which he will renew for 90 days at the most because interest rates are down. He has just cashed in a TIF because of a $200,000 water tower payment. So far, we have paid out in the vicinity of a half a million dollars.

He has also been closely following the bankruptcy court case with Rub Ford since we learned that the property had been sold. We had received an offer two years ago and we have sent two certified letters to the bankruptcy attorney. He called the attorney and was told that the check was sent to Scott Belt in October and he did not want to get involved with our politics. The attorney had talked to Belt that day and the check was supposed to have been put in the mail. That was a week ago today and we have not received the check. It was supposed to be around $12,500 less taxes and a 5% commission fee, so it would be around $10,000. Hileman stopped at Belt's office twice today and they were closed. He will call tomorrow and talk to his secretary to find out where the check is.

The pumps have been put in the water plant and one has problems with the chlorine, they should be here within two or three days to get that pump up and running. They will not work on the other one until after the holidays. We have received a bill for $39,000 but we are not going to pay it until the pump is up and running. New pumps were put in the sewer plant; the first one was put in about 70 days ago and has been experiencing problems with vibrating. They are a type of submersible pump that should grind everything up unless a rock gets in there. They are expected to come in tomorrow afternoon to look at it since it is under warranty.

Comm. Smith –Nothing to report but requested an update on the water tower. Casey reported to Hileman that they would start doing some steel around January 10.

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – High service pumps are going in since the new water tower is going to be higher. With the first one going in there seems to be a measurement issue. The valve doesn't close all the way and a part is being manufactured and should be on site in a couple of days. There was a chlorine issue but that was solved this morning. The other pump will be installed after the first of the year once the current one is going okay. A discussion was held regarding what to do with the construction gravel. They can leave in the alley for service trucks around 16 to 18 feet wide and move the gravel to the sewer plant. The area can be seeded so it can be mowed versus leaving the gravel which would have to be sprayed for weeds.

Clerk Malinowski – The Village Board has received a thank you card from former Treasurer Sheryl McDaniel for the framed recognition and gift cards.

Mayor Serena – He would like to thank those who helped with the tree decorating and the tree lighting. The tree lighting was a little different this year to make it as safe as possible and there was low turnout. The northbound I-55 ramp is re-opened. There was an issue at the park on November 28 with damage to a slide and the sheriff was called. We are researching for a replacement to the slide which has to be compliant with our insurance. Hileman recommended pursuing with the state's attorney.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hileman, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

_____

Pat Malinowski, Clerk