VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
April 26, 2021

Monday, April 26, 2021, 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, and Mayor Mike Serena. Commissioner Dick Hileman was absent. Also in attendance was Village Engineer Casey McCollom. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of April 12 were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, and 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 Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

No public comments were presented

Agenda –

Mayor Serena announced the appointment of the new Village Attorney, Bryan M. Wellner of Mahoney, Silverman & Cross, LLC of Joliet, with offices at Morris as well. Mr. Wellner introduced himself as the lead attorney for the Village and stated that there are 14 attorneys at the firm who would available for support with various legal matters as well. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the appointment, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Mayor Serena read a resignation letter from Joel Maxard as electrical inspector. The Mayor is in the process of searching for a new inspector but there are presently no candidates.

Comm. Smith made motion to approve the use and payment of temporary inspectors at their current rate from surrounding villages, second by Wolf. Mayor Serena will contact other communities as needed for required inspections. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Resident John Hernandez addressed the Board concerning tree stumps on Village property across the street from him that are beginning to sprout, causing a visibility problem and he is concerned for neighborhood children. He presented photographs of the stumps in question and asked if they could be ground or removed. Mayor Serena suggested that the Village contact the local tree service to see if they could get a deal and Comm. Wolf commented that the runners could be cut down.

Water rates automatically increase 5% annually unless the Board waives the increase. Comm. Wolf made motion to waive the water increase for this year, second by Hill. He commented that there is no reason to increase the rates now; maybe in the future but not at the present. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion to close the Depot Street parking lot and Village property for Red Carpet events on Saturday, May 1, second by Hill. The Scapegoats will hold a car show in the parking lot and Creative Gems will have a craft show on the adjacent Village property. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Businesses have been contacted and a written notice will be delivered to them on Depot Street as well as to apartment tenants.

Comm. Hill made motion, second by Smith, to purchase paint and approve signs on the Village roadway and right-of-way for the Red Carpet festival. Volunteers paint the Route 66 logo on the

streets and set up signs to mark the route. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented

Reports

Comm. Hileman – Absent

Comm. Smith –Nothing to report

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Deferred to McCollom on water tower reporting

Casey McCollom – Reported on water tower progress: The ball is expected to lifted tomorrow (Tuesday, April 27) at 7:00 a.m.. pending weather reports and will be delayed if the wind is 18 mph or higher. Once the ball is placed the painting will be finished, and interior electrical and plumbing will be completed. When on-line, volume will be slowly increased from the current 43-45 to around 55 pounds when done, projected for July. Residents should be vigilant for leaks. Then the old tower will be demolished with an anticipated date toward late August. At this time both pumps are running but are not online.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Reviewed the various Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor events to be held on Saturday, May 1. The Lions will serve root beer floats and sandwiches by the diner car, the Archives will be open here, the car show and craft show will be held downtown, some businesses will have specials going on.

Illinois legislation has allowed us to apply for a second extension to our TIF and we have been working on that. He has met with all the taxing bodies and none of them have objected. All support letters have been received except for one at this time.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Wolf, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

_____

Pat Malinowski, Clerk