VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
June 28, 2021

Monday, June 28, 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 Tim Hill, Dick Hileman, Erik Smith (arrived 7:04 p.m.), and Mayor Mike Serena. Commissioner Rob Wolf was absent. Also in attendance were Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of June 14, 2021 were presented. Comm. Hill made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Mayor Serena. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Pass: Hileman. 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, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Cathy Sorensen addressed the Board with a request regarding a Village emergency alert system for notifications such as water outages, storm alerts, etc. She offered several possible options. Comm. Hileman referred to the reverse 911 system which cost the Village quite a bit, and Comm. Smith mentioned that he had looked into setting up a website but the set-up cost was prohibitive. Mayor Serena commented that this is worth looking into.

Resident Brad Kingma asked for an update on the reimbursement of permit fees for those who had paid for a permit for installing a generator. Mayor Serena commented that reimbursements would be paid to those who wrote a letter requesting the refund. This would apply only to those who got the permit before the decision was made to require a permit and an inspection.

Resident Dan Bell addressed the Board once again regarding deterioration of several properties. He suggested that the Village follow-up on those properties to be discussed by John Frideres on the agenda portion.

Mayor Serena followed up on resident Michael Pokornicki's request from a prior meeting regarding attorney's fees from the firm of Mahoney, Silverman & Cross. He reported that fees are $215 per hour for non-reimbursable fees, $300 for reimbursable fees, $125 per hour for paralegals and clerks. Rates may be adjusted periodically, and the Village will also be billed for charges incurred for Village matters.

Agenda –

Resident John Frideres addressed the Board regarding mowing and junk in the Village. He commented on properties adjacent to his as well as those of Village employees. He presented photographs and addresses of specific properties and asked that the Village follow up to ensure that progress is being made. Comm. Hileman commented that he brought up the subject months ago in anticipation of summer months. Further discussion was held regarding possible legal procedures to enforce ordinances.

Comm. Hileman reviewed changes that were made to the Appropriations Ordinance for the Board, with the total appropriations at $12,920,300. No further adjustments were requested by Board members. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the Appropriations Ordinance No. 2021-04 for the fiscal year 2022, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Board discussed a draft of an Ordinance Authorizing, with Limitations, the Operation of Golf Carts on Village Streets. Several issues were brought up such as adding other types of vehicles, limits related to Village streets and railroad crossings, and liability to the Village. Attorney Wellner reviewed the ordinance and commented that any ordinance would be required to follow state statute, including the requirement to hold a valid driver's license, applies only to Village

Streets and prohibits operation on or across any road with a speed limit over 35 mph, as well as crossing railroad tracks, subject to DUI laws, mandatory insurance requirements and registration. Specific equipment requirements are also included in the ordinance and capacity/age limits. Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Hill, to table approval and further discussion of the ordinance to a future meeting Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Further discussion involved the Grundy County Sheriff's contract – currently at $64,000 – versus the costs of the Village having police.

Unfinished Business

In response to his inquiries at the last meeting, Mayor Serena informed Mr. Pokornicki that our law firm has not worked directly with any union, and the Mayor reported that he is not a supremacist nor a racist.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Nothing to report

Comm. Hileman – Gauges to be calibrated at the sewer plant July 1, head gaskets and bolts to be replaced on generator at the water plant (at a cost of around $13,000 versus a cost of $90,000 for a new one). We probably won't get any tax money until some time in August. We owe approximately $400,000 on the water tower and the Engineering firm.

Comm. Smith –Nothing to report

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report.

Comm. Wolf – Absent

Casey McCollom – The painters are waiting for the weather to break to continue painting. There will be some grinding to remove some rust and re-prime and re-paint.

Clerk Malinowski – The audit took place on June 28 and no significant discrepancies were found. We have received a draft of the audit and Comm. Hileman is reviewing it. We should have a final report for the next Board meeting.

Mayor Serena – Weather was not great for the all-town garage sales. Clean up was today and there was a lot of garbage in his neighborhood. Mosquito spraying will begin June 29 weather permitting until further notice, per Comm. Hileman. Both Maintenance employees have received their mosquito licenses. We will put a notice on the cable channel.

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. Hill, Hileman, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk