VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
August 9, 2021

Monday, August 9, 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, Dick Hileman, and Mayor Mike Serena. Commissioner Tim Hill was absent. Also in attendance was Village Engineer Casey McCollom. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was not present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of July 26, 2021 were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, and Mayor Serena. Pass: Hileman. 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, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Dan Bell addressed the Board requesting an update on clean up of properties in the Village. Mayor Serena reported on several vehicles that were towed or moved and improvement in clean up of several properties. One specific property owner will not comply and the case has now gone to legal. We have a new attorney now and hopefully the case will not be continued over and over. Resident Sharon Pickles commented that making an example of someone may encourage other owners to comply, even though legal fees will be incurred. Resident Benny Grant mentioned vehicles parked on Village rights-of-way. Commissioner Hileman referred to a specific court case which was used as an example to revise our ordinance, that vehicles parked on Village property could be towed without warning.

Agenda –

Bill Pohl Knights of Columbus representative requested permission for the organization to solicit for donations during their annual fund drive September 9-11, 2021 (*Note: He called on August 10 to correct the dates to September 10-12.*) Comm. Hileman made motion to approve, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Resident Michael Pokornicki addressed the Board regarding the Animal Control contract and grass mowing. Mayor Serena has talked to Animal Control to negotiate the contract, the main issue being the number of patrols which represents the major portion of the cost.

Benny Grant brought up train horns. Mayor Serena commented that he is not in favor of stopping them due to the safety factor.

The Board discussed a draft of an Ordinance Authorizing, with Limitations, the Operation of Golf Carts on Village Streets. He mentioned that copies have been sent also to Grundy County and the Sheriff. The Sheriff made several suggestions, but we should wait for input from the other bodies before finalizing the ordinance. Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Smith, to table approval and further discussion of the ordinance to a future meeting Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

The Mayor commented that issues with grass and vehicles have already been covered, as well as Animal Control.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – The generator at the water plant has been repaired. We had problems with some 10" pipes with the wells, some corroded sections have been replaced. He commended the job that Maintenance workers have been doing on cleaning the ditches by the elevator, across from the bank, and behind the laundromat down to Carbon Hill Road. One CD came due and was renewed at 1%. They will begin to fill the water tower tonight. Two samples need to be taken 24 hours apart and delivered within 30 hours of the first sample.

Comm. Smith – Presented an update on the sink hole next to the railroad tracks on Carbon Hill Road. Mayor Serena spoke to the railroad and he was told that it was not their responsibility. However, if we have it fixed, they will pay, since they do not have the resources to hire out the job locally. Fatlan has submitted an estimate which has been forwarded to the railroad.

Comm. Hill – Absent

Comm. Wolf – Requested further information from Casey McCollom about the water tower.

Casey McCollom – Hileman mentioned that he has been notified by several people that there are spots in the on the stem. Filling of the tower will result in a spike in water pressure to as much as 65#, compared to the current 45#. Residents should have been informed and Don Phillips commented that it has been on the radio at least twice and will be on the radio again tomorrow.

Clerk Malinowski – Distributed the audit report to the Board to review for approval at the next meeting.

Mayor Serena – The Village has been spraying for mosquitoes. There had been a problem at the railroad drain/ditch near Midwest Industrial Sales and a crew had been digging it up today.

At 7:43 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. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

At 8:25 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Serena. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to grant an increase of $1.00 per hour to the four Village employees, effective this morning at 8:00 a.m., second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

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. Smith, Wolf, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

_____

Pat Malinowski, Clerk