**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**
**October 25, 2021**

Monday, October 25, 2021, at 7:05 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, Dick Hileman, and Mayor Mike Serena. 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 October 11, 2021 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Pass: Wolf. 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 Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

**Public Comments**

Resident Michael Pokornicki addressed the Board regarding former Village Attorney Frank Cortina under Mayor VonQualen. He stated that he would not hesitate to take people to court to clean up their yards and mow grass.

**Agenda –**

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the Tree Lighting Ceremony to take place on Sunday, November 28, at 6:00 p.m., second by Smith. Mayor Serena announced that at present the plan is to do the same as last year, a "drive-through" type event, unless restrictions due to COVID are relaxed. No other arrangements have been finalized, but he wanted to set the date and time. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed

Resident Don Philips was on the agenda, however, he was not present at the meeting.

Resident Michael Pokornicki addressed the Board regard a number of items. The train horns do not bother him; he questioned whether any Board members receive free cable and/or internet; he considers the Village the safest place in the world since there are no gangs or shootings, little crime, very few people are out at night; animal control (Mayor Serena reported that the he has been in contact with Grundy County Animal Control and the contract would come up in November).

**Unfinished Business** – No Unfinished Business was presented

**Reports**

**Attorney Bryan Wellner** – Absent

**Comm. Hileman** – Nothing to report

**Comm. Smith** – Inquired about the solar farm maintenance, it looks terrible. The silt fence has not been removed and mowing needs to be done. Mayor Serena will try to get a contact number and get in touch with them to get it done. The landscaping has not been done either.

**Comm. Hill** – Nothing to report

**Comm. Wolf** – Would not be on board with providing funds to the Fire Department but would rather offer free water to residents. He asked Comm. Hileman how much was in the gambling fund ($13,000-15,000) and what it cost to give the free water ($21,000-25,000). He

also agreed with putting the train horn issue on a referendum. Mayor Serena advised that it could be on the June ballot, but a public forum should take place beforehand, possibly at the American Legion on a Tuesday or Wednesday.

**Casey McCollom** – Pressure on the water tower 61-63. The computer will be set tomorrow. Hileman asked Dan Babcock about the overflow. He did not want to overflow it because he was afraid it would burst more pipes.

**Clerk Malinowski** – We received the certificate from Secretary of State Jesse White with the official 2020 census for Gardner at 1366 inhabitants. Hileman reported that we could lose tax money since our population went down from 1463 in 2010.

**Mayor Serena** – He suggested holding the public forum on the train horns after the holidays, possibly March or April.

We got about 3-1/2" of rain, the ditches around town are full, the storm sewers did well. Smith reported that the culvert at the recycle center needs to be dug. One abandoned vehicle case went to court- one vehicle was towed, one got tags but needs to be moved.

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. Smith, Wolf, Hill, Hileman, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk