VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
November 8, 2021

Monday, November 8, 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 Rob Wolf, Tim Hill, Erik Smith, and Mayor Mike Serena. Comm. Dick Hileman was absent. Also in attendance was Village Engineer Casey McCollom. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was not present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence in observance of Veteran's Day.

The minutes of October 25, 2021 were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Smith, 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. Wolf, Hill, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for the month of October was presented. Comm. Wolf moved to approve the Treasurer's Reports as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Hill, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Don Phillips announced that the Veteran's Day program will be held Thursday, November 11, at the American Legion at 11:00 a.m.

Resident Sharon Pickles requested an update on property issues. Don Reed has not yet been served, although Grundy County Sheriff has attempted 14 times last month. He is surely aware of what is coming and will not answer the door. Eventually he will get served.

Regarding other properties, one has been moved; one has tags taken care of and must be moved every seven days; one is operating; one vehicle is gone.

The plaque from the old water has been located and will be returned to the Village Hall.

Agenda –

Don Phillips addressed the Board regarding the sounding of train horns. He referenced a 82-year old Braidwood man killed Friday after being hit by a train. The coroner did not rule it a suicide. He asked if the Board has made any further decisions regarding train horns. Mayor Serena reported that it was discussed to be put on the ballot in either June or November, but it would only be fair to have some kind of public forum at the American Legion around March to present information regarding Union Pacific regulations and allow public comments. Phillips commented that putting it on the ballot is a bad idea, that the Board is responsible for the public safety of the Village.

Resident Michael Pokornicki addressed the Board on a number of items. He intended to file a FOIA for the financial report. He had received a certified letter that he would be charged $200 if the Village mowed the right-of-way. He intends to file a small claims in the amount of $2 million ($5,000 per month) because he has been mowing Village property. He agrees with Don Phillips on the train horns. As for Animal Control, he plans to go to their meeting tomorrow. The Mayor informed him of the contract that we are expecting to sign when we get it. The cats that are living in his garage belonged to Mrs. Talty who died in 2018 and he was under the impression that the cats were in her will. He would like to look at the Village codification book tomorrow. Mayor Serena gave him a copy of the ordinances for Animal Control for both the Village of Gardner and Grundy County; also gave him a copy of the Treasurer's Report which had been approved at the meeting.

Unfinished Business – Revisiting the train horn issue, Mayor Serena would still like to put it on the ballot. He would like to educate the public. At this time, the Board is leaning toward keeping the horns. Comm. Wolf commented that he would like to table the issue.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Absent

Comm. Smith – He has contacted Senator Joyce regarding Route 129 to find out if there is anything being planned to improve the road. He is waiting for a callback to see what can be done.

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report.

Casey McCollom – Pressure on the water tower still at 61-63. He recommends that Dan finds the overflow, but he is nervous about it because he is afraid it would burst more pipes. It would be better to do it now rather than January or February.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report.

Mayor Serena – The bank will be coordinating the Festival of Trees with the Tree Lighting ceremony on Sunday, November 28 at 6:00 p.m.. The Lions Club is on board with serving hot chocolate. Mr. and Mrs. Claus are scheduled. Don Phillips will provide the sound system.

He has contacted the solar farm people about getting that cleaned up and he got them in touch with a landscaping business, who immediately came out to take care of it. Trees have been planted, but some thought there was supposed to be a berm. They had asked about spraying, but the Mayor told them that we don't spray because of farming in the area.

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. Wolf, Hill, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk