VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
January 24, 2022

Monday, January 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Dick Hileman 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 Pro Tem Dick Hileman. Mayor Mike Serena was absent. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner and Village Engineer Casey McCollom were absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of January 10, 2022 were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Wolf, Smith. Nays: None. Pass: Hill, Hileman. 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 Pro Tem Hileman. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

No public comments were presented

Agenda –

Resident Don Phillips was on the agenda regarding train horns. He requested an update on the ballot referendum. Mayor Serena has talked to the Grundy County Clerk regarding placing a referendum on the ballot and a public forum to inform residents about the train horn issue has been discussed with a tentative date of February 22 or 23, to be held at the American Legion.

Mayor Pro Tem Hileman led a discussion regarding use of American Rescue Plan Act funds for improvements at the sewer and water plants. There have been EPA issues at the sewer plant – the solids are too high – and the lagoons need to be pumped out. We have spent $27,000 to have the dike built up but that did not solve the problem. They have never been pumped out since they were built in 1987. There are only a couple of outfits that do that type of work, one near Peru and one up north. It will cost between $100,000 to $135,000. To pump all three pits would cost closer to $200,000. What they are suggesting is to pump pit #1; go to pit #3 and use a sludge pump to pump into pit #2, and then clean #2. Hileman proposed $90,000 of ARPA funds for that. The water plant has been there a little over 20 years, we have had leaks with the 10” cast iron pipes. Some have been replaced about five or six years ago, this past fall we had another section replaced. To redo all of that in there is going to be around $200,000 or better. It is suggested to take care of the raw water first where it comes out of the well to the reservoir. We need to make a motion where we would like to spend the funds. Smith asked about the life expectancy of the project. American material lasted much longer than foreign material. Three doors also need to be replaced at around $7,000-$9,000. New pumps were installed last fall in the sewer plant. One of them was run dry for approximately three days. Flow Tech came out and said it was okay, but there is some wood or something jammed in the pipe. We may have to have it “camera-ed” to see what is in there.

Unfinished Business –

No unfinished business was presented

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Reported about meeting a resident from Bookwalter Woods who complained about Don Reed's property. Hileman told him about the result of the court case. He said we need to keep on it and request a change of venue.

Comm. Smith – Hileman suggested to get going on streets that need to be done. He suggested that Smith get in touch with Casey soon, to put out for bid early in the year. The dips in the street need to be ground down. Some intersections need to be done.

Comm. Hill – Asked for a status regarding the hole on Carbon Hill Road. There is a question whether the state or railroad owns that area. The railroad asked for a bid to have it taken care of; we sent them a quote from Fatlan but have not heard anything back from them. Hileman will call Senator Joyce / Representative Haas for assistance. Smith also has contacted Senator Joyce.

He will set up a meeting with the clerks and the website company that does Mazon and Braceville.

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Absent

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report.

Mayor Serena – Absent

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 Pro Tem Hileman. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk