VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
February 14, 2022

Monday, February 14, 2022, 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, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Mike Serena. Comm. Erik Smith was absent, but arrived at 7:28 p.m. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was present and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of January 24, 2022 were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Wolf. Nays: None. Pass: Mayor Serena. 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, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for the month of January was presented. Comm. Hileman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. 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. A public forum to inform residents about the train horn issue will be held on February 22, at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the American Legion. Sounding of train horns will be the only topic discussed at that event. The senior director of public affairs from the railroad is unable to attend as she is relocating to Illinois from Kansas. We are still working on getting another representative to attend. Mr. Phillips urged the Board to make a decision rather than put it on the ballot since it would be a non-binding referendum and questioned legal fees that would be incurred. McCollom discussed costs per crossing for the railroad to perform a risk assessment, based on his experience with Dwight.

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Hill, to approve the use of $90,000 of ARPA Funds for Sewer plant improvements and $90,000 for the Water plant. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve an agreement with Stewart Spreading, Inc. to clean the sewer ponds, second by Wolf. There were two options presented; option A would cost around $100,000 for ponds 2 and 3; option B would run $180,000 for ponds 1, 2 and 3. This is a specialty work but Mayor Serena would like to consider other companies based on our responsible bidder ordinance, and so Hileman withdrew the motion, second by Wolf. Comm. Wolf then made motion to table the discussion to the next meeting, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman made motion to approve permission to solicit for Dad's Day on Saturday, June 18. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hileman moved to approve painting/signs/purchase of 5 gallons of paint on Village roadway and right-of-way for Red Carpet Festival, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business –

No unfinished business was presented

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – The new bill for Grundy County Sheriff in the amount of $54,640 was received, a reduction from the previous bill of $63,102. Mayor Serena and Comm. Hileman will meet with the Sheriff to see if it can be reduced further.

CDs are coming due.

He talked with Comm. Smith about the hole at Carbon Hill Road. Hileman called Rep. Haas out of Kankakee; her office called back and said they were working with the State Engineer and would get back to us. He talked to Senator Joyce's office and they were waiting for a response from the railroad.

Comm. Smith – (Arrived at 7:28 p.m.) He will talk with Casey about Washing Street from the railroad tracks to Rt. 53, Carbon Hill Road and the entrance to the sewer plant. Hileman suggested holding off on repairs to the street by the post office until that pipe repair is done.

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report.

Mayor Serena – Would like to look into new sliding gate at the sewer plant and possibly make the opening wider to accommodate semis and heavy equipment. The Maintenance workers did a good job plowing. Some cars were towed from the tow-away zone.

The Executive Session was cancelled.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hill, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Hileman, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk