VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
July 11, 2022

Monday, July 11, 2022, at 7:12 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, and Mayor Mike Serena. Commissioners Tim Hill and Dick Hileman were absent. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of June 27, 2022 were presented. Comm. Smith made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Mayor Serena. Pass: Wolf. 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, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Public Comments –

Resident Don Phillips addressed the Board regarding the train horn issue, commenting that in the past the commissioners had stated that they would like to keep the train horns in the Village and urged them "to vote their conscience tonight and end this conversation."

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

A draft chicken ordinance was presented for review, to be discussed at the next meeting. Several additional issues were brought up: How to remove chickens in the event of revocation of the license; limit on number of permits; should there be a pilot program.

A discussion was held regarding the Train Horn Quiet Zone. Village Engineer Casey McCollom reviewed the process required for initiating the quiet zone. 1. Crossings need to be identified. 2. Written notice of intent to create a new quiet zone to be provided to FRA, UP, county, state and ICC. All stakeholders need to come to the Village to meet and to walk each crossing. There would probably not be any additional improvements required other than the addition of "No Train Horn" signs. There will be a 60-day comment period to allow for stakeholders to comment. 3. A diagnostic team meeting must be held at each crossing location to evaluate the suitability for establishment of a quiet zone and recommend necessary improvements. 4. Design and construct any necessary improvements. Signs would be installed at this step but would have to be covered until the Quiet Zone goes into effect. 5. Provide written Notice of Establishment of Quiet Zone. From the date of notice, there is a 21-day waiting period before restrictions to the use of the train horn goes into effect. The whole process could take three to nine months. The county must approve Main Street crossing.

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Smith for a total (24/7) quiet zone. Roll call – Ayes: Comm Wolf. Nays – Smith, Mayor Serena. Motion failed. Comm. Smith then made motion, second by Mayor Serena, to approve a Partial Quiet Zone (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.). Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Mayor Serena. Pass: Wolf. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – Absent

Comm. Smith – The former boat place needs to be mowed and cleaned up. It was sold and the new owners started to do some work. They need to be contacted, and the Village will mow and charge them if it is not done.

Comm. Hill – Absent

Comm. Wolf – Inquired whether the Village could obtain a meter that could be attached to a fire hydrant so that residents could fill their swimming pools and then pay for water that was pumped. The Village does not allow this. A maintenance employee would need to be on site to turn the water on/off to avoid damage to hydrants.

Casey McCollom – The 4" line on Dwight has been capped. The sink hole at Carbon Hill Road and Rt 53 is the result of a blind T-junction collapse. He drew up a sketch and sent it to IDOT to see if they would be interested in supplying materials as they have indicated before and haven't heard back. McCollom suggested cutting out the T and installing a new manhole at that location and replacing the culvert under Carbon Hill Road. The railroad is offering to provide flaggers. We could bid out the labor only if IDOT provides the materials. We would not need to bid it out if there is a unanimous decision by the Board. There was agreement to have Conley Excavating do the work if we could get the materials at no cost and flaggers at no cost.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – Conley has been good to us and if we don't get the sink hole fixed now, it will become a bigger problem in the future.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Wolf, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

_____

Pat Malinowski, Clerk