VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
August 22, 2022

Monday, August 22, 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 Dick Hileman, Erik Smith, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Mike Serena. Commissioner Tim Hill was absent. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of residents Ida Schopp and Don Jensen.

The minutes of July 25, 2022 were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. 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 Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Reports for the months of June and July were presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.
Public Comments –

Resident Don Phillips addressed the Board and presented photographs of trains moving through town while gates were up and reminded the Board members that they had stated that they supported keeping the train horns but did not vote to keep them.

Resident Sharon Pickles requested an update on the plaque from the old water tower and was informed that it has not yet been placed in the archives although the Village does have possession. She reported several homes that needed to be cleaned up and also one where there is a child in residence but windows are boarded up. DCFS and the Health Department have been contacted. A question was also raised regarding a fence that appears to have been installed on Village right of way. In response to a question about repairing Jefferson Street near the post office, it is scheduled to be fixed during the Motor Fuel project which was delayed due to the quarry strike earlier in the year.

Chuck Dennison addressed the Board regarding his expansion project. He presented engineering plans to eliminate drainage problems on the property. They included a retention pond, which would take up a good portion of the property, or install an outlet pipe for drainage which would involve raising the area with four feet of clay fill to allow proper pitch. However, the costs were prohibitive and he stated that he would probably abandon the project. He pointed out several other locations in the Village that did not have the drainage requirement. Casey McCollom responded to his issues and pointed out that the ditch on Rt. 129 was state property and not under the jurisdiction of the Village, and would require a permit from IDOT. The Planning and Zoning Board had an issue with the drainage problem and would only grant the zoning variance with an approved plan to remove the standing water problem.

Resident Dan Bell addressed the board regarding train horns. Mayor Serena informed him that the process has started and McCollom outlined the procedures involved. He also asked what the Village plans regarding memorials for Ida Schopp and Don Jensen.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Comm. Hileman moved to approve solicitation of donations at Village locations by Knights of Columbus for their annual fund drive September 16-18, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

John Hernandez was on the agenda regarding location of storm sewer on North Street, but he was not present.

Comm. Hileman made motion, second by Smith, to approve All Town Garage Sales the weekend of October 1, with All Town Fall Clean Up on October 3. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed another draft of the chicken ordinance. Mayor Serena added terminology "in the event that chickens must be removed for violation of any terms of the ordinance, all costs will be the responsibility of the violators. The Village of Gardner shall oversee the process. Section E-19 regarding surrounding 6 foot fence will be removed. Comm. Wolf made motion, and second by Hileman, to table approval of the chicken ordinance and send to the attorney to review. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hileman – We are still awaiting permits to pump the sewer ponds. New pipes are being made for the water plant.

Comm. Smith – Nothing to report

Comm. Hill – Absent

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Provided additional information regarding the Dennison project.

As far as the road projects that are on hold – the quarries are shut down and have voted down the most recent contract proposition and the state is not authorizing any new sources for state mix. Once the strike is settled, there would probably be a one week notice to begin work.

Clerk Malinowski – The Route 66 sign is scheduled to be installed on Friday, August 26, between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

Mayor Serena – Recognized the 100th birthday of Dorothy Treasurer. We have contacted Casey's in regard to an inquiry about a problem with a proposed expansion and have not received a response. Pilot had planned to build in several locations in Illinois but they pulled out. Several contractors took packets but not all of them bid. Two did submit bids but one could not meet requirements. Regarding the ditches around town, we are not able to remove trees and weeds on state property and need to rely on IDOT to respond. Ida Schopp was instrumental in starting the Festival of Trees at the bank. The bank is going to stay in town and will be willing to continue the festival and coordinate with the tree lighting.

At 8:08 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) and 5ILCS120/2(c)11of The Open Meetings Act, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

At 8:52 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Smith, with agreement by the entire board. Motion passed.

Temporary inspectors will be compensated with a stipend of $200, and whatever fees collected would be all theirs. If this is not adequate Mayor Serena will contact each Board member individually to see what can be agreed on. Comm. Hileman moved to approve, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Clerk Malinowski will schedule a special meeting for Thursday, August 25, at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of interviews with two applicants with CDL licenses. Dan Babcock will be compensated for inspector work.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hileman, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hileman, Smith, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays – None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk