VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
June 12, 2023

Monday, June 12, 2023, 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, Rob Wolf, Brad Kingma, Erik Smith, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Comm. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner were absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of May 8, 2023, were presented. Comm. Hill made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

A list of current bills was presented. Comm. Wolf moved to approve payment of the bills as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Reports for the months of April and May were presented. Comm. Hill moved to approve the Treasurer's Reports as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Comm. Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Rick Marketti addressed the Board regarding the streetlights on South Jackson; they look nice but thinks they need one more. In response to his question on the old Royal Blue building, Mayor Serena commented that the structural engineer's report has been completed and the owner has been given direction on what is needed in order to proceed. Regarding the ditches, Mayor Serena has met with the lead guy from IDOT. They discussed the last time IDOT cleaned the ditches they did a good job but skipped one area because the owner would not allow them on his property. Marketti commented that there is a new owner now, and the Mayor told him that. If everything lines up, the weather is favorable, they can dredge the ditch and put it on the property, and sift through to remove rocks. IDOT just came through and mowed. The equipment with the boom arm is not readily available. If it becomes available, and we are notified, our maintenance workers can help with flagging traffic. We have permission to clean the ditches, but Serena made it clear that we are not taking ownership. In regard to the corner at Carbon Hill Road, this is a critical area because vision is obstructed. We can clean some of that out and we have permission to burn. Dredging will be hit and miss. Until the ditch is mowed down completely, spraying doesn't do much good. The Village maintains the railroad ditch outside the fence. The fire department is back to where they used to be, personnel-wise. Marketti also asked about street lights by the interstate. Mayor Serena has talked to IDOT in Ottawa. They will not upgrade, but we have asked to have them re-lamped. About Route 129, Comm. Smith has talked to the state representative from LaSalle County, who is a personal friend, for advice. His recommendation is to go to the lead engineer from IDOT and explain that it is a critical infrastructure because it is a school bus route, to push to get on the agenda, so that we can get on the list for road money coming in. Grants are hard to get; the first step is to have a well thought out plan put together and counts for 25% of the points scored toward getting the grant.

Resident Dawn Mack remarked that the parks look really good. She asked about the Lion fountain. The maintenance employees reported that it needs repair work but they do not feel confident enough to do the job. We would like to have it repaired and maybe could work with the Lions organization to have it done. She mentioned the trailer on Elm Street by the former Schopp house which causes a problem blocking vision with traffic coming around the corner. Some dead trees have been taken down. There has been a suggestion to have a wood carver to come in and do something with them, but they are very expensive. She then asked about the welcome signs. They have talked about it but have not moved forward at this time. They need to come up with a material list and would need to be redone with treated lumber. Dawn showed some picture with ideas.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Hill, to approve the Animal Control contract in the amount of $1,327. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hill made motion to approve funds to purchase a new lawn mower not to exceed $14,000, second by Smith. We are looking for 60" Hustler mower, with suspension front forks(?). We are looking for bids from three different suppliers. 75% can come from TIF, 25% from General Funds. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: Wolf, Kingma. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the purchase of four flashing red stop sign warning lights (cost around $120 each), second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Our intergovernmental agreement with the county for Main Street states that we will maintain Main Street for signs up to electric. We do not have it in writing yet that we can have them on Main Street and Grundy County will not pay for them. Also, the County has tabled allowing golf carts on Main Street for now.

Comm. Hill made motion to move forward with the Locis utility billing module at $500 for the module plus $4 per month, second by Wolf. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. The scanner will need to be purchased separately from Amazon. The direct deposit module is expense and there is little interest at this time from residents. Lynn will contact other municipalities to see how it is working for them before we move forward.

Comm. Wolf made motion to approve funds in the amount of $1,000 for repairs to the diner car fascia, second by Kingman. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf moved to take $500 from the gaming fund and add that amount to a new Tricentennial CD (cashing in the current one), second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Smith – Asked Casey where we are with the train horn issue. The NOI (notice of intention) is being sent tomorrow.

Comm. Kingma – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – Nothing further

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – At the last meeting he had a number of people to thank for help for the Red Carpet event and forgot to mention a couple more. One was Don Phillips, who provides his sound system for free. He also thanked Carpenters Local 174 and Keith Shubert for building the steps for the diner car. The tractor show brought in several bags of non-perishables for the food pantry.

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

At 8:44 p.m. Comm. Kingma made motion to reconvene, second by Smith, with agreement by the entire board. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf moved to approve a payroll increase of $1.00 for all employees retroactive to June 1, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Hydrant flushing will be scheduled in the near future during the normal working hours with approximately 170 per day. The water reservoir needs cleaning also.

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: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk