VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
June 26, 2023

Monday, June 26, 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 Brad Kingma, Erik Smith, Tim Hill, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Comm. Rob Wolf and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner were absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of June 12, 2023, were presented. Comm. Hill made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

A list of current bills was presented. Comm. Smith moved to approve payment of the bills as printed, second by Hill. The new mower was not shown on the current bill list because the check was cut last Tuesday. The list for the mower will be available at the next meeting. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Rick Marketti addressed the Board regarding the Jackson Street streetlights, he said there should be three, and it should be reflected in the minutes awhile back. He asked about the building permit for the old Royal Blue and how long it is good for. Mayor Serena responded that it is good for two years and it is getting pretty close to that. Regarding the ditches, Carl did a great job on the railroad ditches. Regarding Rt. 53 ditches, the state will come in to clean it out if we take down the trees and saplings. The Mayor has also talked to IDOT in Ottawa about the interstate lighting – they will fix what we have but will not upgrade at this time. He questioned Casey about grant money and asked if it could be used for Rt. 129, which is a state road. The Safe Route for Schools usually require a match and they request that the local municipality get involved. A project plan needs to be in place as the first step in the process.

Resident Dawn Mack addressed the Board once again about the trailer on Elm Street. Mayor Serena has met with the owner. He had been working on it but is now making provisions to move it into his driveway. She has concerns regarding the business on Main Street with construction equipment next to the house. We are not putting in a fountain in at this time to replace the Lion fountain. Brought up welcome signs once again. Mayor Serena has looked into some designs. She mentioned that 2026 will be the 100th anniversary of Route 66 and asked if the Village is considering working on plans for something special.

Resident Dan Bell addressed the Board about the trucks parked across the street from J & R on Liberty Street. Comm. Hill has talked to him about maintaining the proper distance from the stop signs to avoid obstruction of vision for drivers.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

There were no agenda items for this meeting.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Smith – Nothing to report

Comm. Kingma – Mayor Serena reported that he talked to the seller of the new mower and was told that the Xmart mower is not less expensive, just depends on a buyer's preference for a brand.

Comm. Wolf – Absent

Casey McCollom – Has submitted the Notice of Intent on the quiet zone which is good for 75 days from the middle of last week. He will order the signs to have them ready for the next step. There were around ten different entities that had to be available for the meeting to review each crossing.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – We did get a verbal okay on the flashing lights for stop signs, and he requested a response in writing for that. Grundy County did not approve permission to use Main Street for golf carts. The County had provided information to him about vehicle traffic on Main Street.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hill, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, and Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk