**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**
**July 24, 2023**

Monday, August 14, 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, Erik Smith, Tim Hill, Rob Wolf, Brad Kingma, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Village Attorney Eric Hanson were also present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of July 10, 2023, were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, 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 Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

**Public Comments**

Resident Barb Phillips addressed the Board regarding paying bills online. Mayor Serena explained that we currently have Court Money to pay water bills online but we are not set up for anything else at the present time.

**Unfinished Business** – No unfinished business was presented

**Agenda**

Lauri Pope of Mack & Assoc. presented the audit and they have issued a clean opinion. No significant discrepancies were found, and all of the items on the comment letter have been addressed. The auditors have recommended adjustment amounts for employee Social Security and IMRF which will be included in the FY 2024 Levy. In addition, Village has taken over maintaining the Village's listing of capital assets. Comm. Hill moved to approve the audit as printed, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Our building inspector is not qualified to do electrical inspections on the solar farm. Comm. Kingma made motion to hire B & F Technical to perform these inspections, based on recommendation from Chamlin, second by Hill. B & F will direct bill Recon Corporation and provide the Village with the inspection reports. Dave Wright, the building inspector, will be kept in the loop. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Resident Sharon Pickles arrived during the audit presentation and addressed the Board before Reports were done. She had further information regarding the property at Jackson and Main. Since we have learned that it was a gas station at one time, there may be problems with the EPA that would need to be considered.

**Reports**

**Attorney Bryan Wellner** – Eric Hanson attended the meeting in place of Bryan Wellner and had nothing to report

**Comm. Hill** – Nothing to report

**Comm. Smith** – A discussion was held regarding Route 129 and Comm. Smith shared an email he received from IDOT (Nicholas Spence). There are no repairs on the schedule for the foreseeable future. They did propose repairing the road if the Village would agree to take it over, however, Smith state that it would not be in the Village's best interest to accept jurisdiction because it would require future maintenance of the road.

**Comm. Kingma** – Nothing to report

**Comm. Wolf** – Nothing to report

**Casey McCollom** – Has provided a list of signs required to be installed for the train horn issue.

**Clerk Malinowski** – A thank you was received from the Prom Lock-in for the Village's donation

**Mayor Serena** – He met with T & J regarding an air diffuser system which would put air in the sludge ponds which would keep it stirred up and would be beneficial for the bacteria that is in there. The first step is to discuss it, and it would run about $400,000. The last three tests on affluent were high. He talked to a man from Aqua Illinois who referred Serena to their sewer guy. The EPA would need approval first and we should contact them to notify them we are looking into it. Hill recommended that we research it thoroughly before we spend that much.

At 8:18 p.m. Comm. Wolf made motion to enter into executive session pursuant to review closed session minutes, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

At 9:00 p.m. Comm. Smith made motion to reconvene, second by Kingma, with agreement by the entire board, with the exception of Wolf, who left during closed session.

A review of executive minutes was held and several were recommended to be released. Attorney Eric Hanson read the following statement prepared by Village Attorney Bryan Wellner: After the Village Attorney conducts a thorough review of the closed session meeting minutes, the Village Board will orally report to the public whether any closed session minutes will be released for public inspection. We expect to provide a report at the next Village Board meeting.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Kingma, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk