VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
August 14, 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, Tim Hill, Rob Wolf, Brad Kingma, Erik Smith, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of July 24, 2023, were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, 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: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for the month of July was presented. Comm. Wolf moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Resident Sharon Pickles addressed the Board regarding trees growing in front of a house on Odell (Pfeifer) and two houses on South Jackson. She also suggested looking into grants to assist homeowners in keeping up their property.

Resident Rick Marketti addressed the Board regarding Royal Blue, Clerk Malinowski reported that the building inspector met with the bricklayer today, and they have not yet applied for an extension on their building permit which expires September 3.

He inquired whether the Village has looked into renting a boom mower to trim the ditches. Mayor Serena commented that we have looked into buying a DRW-type walk-behind because it could be used for more than the ditches, but other items would take priority at this time. Smith stated that our combination is really old and he has researched what it is worth and a price on a new one, as an option, and they do make flail mowers that attach to the back of the combos that we could rent. A used combo (2016-2017) could run $2,000-3,000 and could be used several different ways. Coal City rents one every year and Diamond and other municipalities use it. Smith suggested that we could down-size what we have and invest in newer equipment, get rid of some equipment and upgrade others. He has received quotes on different pieces of equipment. Marketti also brought up the sinkhole failure on Carbon Hill Road.

Resident Betsy Hennessy addressed the Board regarding the Grade School scoreboard that is not working. The Mayor has a meeting scheduled with the Superintendent regarding Safe Route to Schools on Wednesday and will mention it.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

A discussion was held regarding the Safe Routes to School Program. Casey McCollom reviewed the application requirements. It is a 100% reimbursement grant requiring no match covering construction and engineering with a maximum up to $250,000. Casey committed to a maximum 15% Phase 1 and 2 engineering fees. Several comments were made from residents regarding "bus eligible" students and children walking in the streets instead of on the sidewalks, even if a sidewalk is present. The first step involves a resolution assuring the Village's financial commitment to the project. The application deadline is October 2. Comm. Hill made motion, second by Smith to approve spending for the Safe Routes to School

Program. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on hiring a consultant regarding the sewer plant, and improvements needed to address and satisfy EPA requirements. A consultant will attend the next board meeting to explain s plan. Comm. Wolf made motion to table a decision, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hill – Several complaints were received regarding the boil order, that residents were not informed. Mayor Serena mentioned that the Village now has a Facebook page.

Comm. Smith – Stated that we need better means of communication with residents / a website to share information

Comm. Kingma – Two hydrants don't work – one at the water tower and one at the legion.

Comm. Wolf – Brought up hydrant flushing – has not been done yet this year

Casey McCollom – Nothing further

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report

Mayor Serena – At the last meeting, the Board met to review minutes of closed session meetings. After review, the Village Board determined there is still a need for confidentiality for certain closed session minutes, and no longer the need for confidentiality for certain closed session minutes or portions of certain closed session minutes. Therefore, the Village will make available for public inspection those minutes or portions of minutes that no longer need confidentiality.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hill, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

_____

Pat Malinowski, Clerk