VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
September 11, 2023

Monday, September 11, 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, Rob Wolf, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence followed, in observance of the anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

The minutes of August 28, 2023, were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes with the correction, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Wolf, 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 Hill. The list included a buyout payment for the copier. The contract ran out and we had a chance to purchase it outright. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was on the agenda but wasn't available for the meeting.

Public Comments

Resident Sharon Pickles addressed the Board regarding the house at Wilmington and Center. Mayor Serena has stopped and talked to him. The owner said he is saving the sticks to burn. Pickles said she had no problem with the sticks, but the backyard has garbage piled everywhere. She brought up the Pfeifer house on Odell again, but the Village's ordinances only cover grass and theirs is taken care of. Mayor Serena did try to get in contact with the owners.

Resident Dan Jerbi addressed the Board regarding mowing the ditches. Mayor Serena explained that he has been in contact with IDOT, but it is advisable to go through channels. Mr. Jerbi said that he would try to make contact with State Representatives about the issue.

Resident Dawn Mack wanted to verify that she still has funds available to purchase flowers for the fall. She also mentioned that there are grants available through the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway. Membership is around $75 per year and she will get the information to Clerk Malinowski.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Melanie Elias, Superintendent/Principal of Gardner Grade School addressed the Board regarding use of the Village's property to install a school track. They gave a presentation with the plans and would probably want to revise the lease agreement. The property they are considering may be needed by the Village to expand the sewer plant, so it cannot be deeded to the school. Comm. Kingma made motion, second by Hill, to table a decision to the next meeting. The Village Attorney will be present at that meeting. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Building Inspector Dave Wright addressed the Board in reference to the Village Ordinance regarding the solar farm electrical installation. The current ordinance using NEC 2009 requires copper and they wish to use aluminum, which is acceptable in the NEC 2017 electric code. The solar farm is requesting a conditional approval and Wright recommended a text amendment to reword the ordinance to refer to code book NEC 2017. Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Smith, to table the decision to the next meeting. The Village Attorney will be contacted to see what can be done. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Village Engineer Casey McCollom provided information for the Lead Service Line Inventory which has a deadline of 4/2024. This is an unfunded mandate through the EPA and grants are available. It is a 100% funding grant. The grant disperses 50% of the awarded funds upon execution of the grant agreement and the remaining 50% is dispersed upon completion of the

inventory. The grant is only eligible to pay for outside services and Chamlin would be willing to hold any balance of bills until the final 50% funding has been received. No funds are forthcoming if we do the work inhouse. Comm. Hill moved to apply for a grant, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

McCollom continued with the Source Water Protection Plan which has a deadline of 7/2024. This, again, is an unfunded mandate and involves raw water testing and water quality. There are no funding opportunities available for this program. Typical cost to prepare this plan for communities similar to Gardner is around $6,000, but Chamlin will offer it at $5,000. Comm. Hill moved to move forward to apply for a grant, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Smith – Asked if there was a warranty on the work done to repair Carbon Hill Road. Several areas need cold pack before cold weather. Suggested having Fatlan mow the ditches, he has the equipment.

Comm. Kingma – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Asked where the Treasurer Report was. The treasurer was not available to prepare it.

Sharon Pickles asked about the train horn issue. Mayor Serena explained that the legal team of the Grundy County Board did not want to grant jurisdiction on the Main Street crossing.

Casey McCollom – Nothing further

Regarding the train horn issue, the county transportation committee decided that they did not want to give the jurisdiction of the Main Street crossing. That would eliminate that particular crossing. It was the legal team that does not want to grant the approval. Fortunately, we were able to cancel the signs order.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report.

Mayor Serena –

At 8:43 p.m. Comm. Wolf made motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCs 120/2(C)(1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

At 9:18 p.m. Comm. Wolf made motion to reconvene, second by Smith, with agreement by the entire board.

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: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Wolf, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk