VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
September 25, 2023

Monday, September 25, 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, Rob Wolf, Brad Kingma, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner were also present. Comm. Tim Hill was absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of September 25, 2023, were presented. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, 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, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for the month of August was presented. Comm. Wolf moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Comm. Wolf asked whether CDAP funds could be put into a CD. We can look into that and also some short-term investments.

Public Comments

Resident James Riley addressed the Board regarding the train horn issue with Grundy County. He has requested it to be put on the agenda for the next County Board Meeting on October 10, so that the whole Board can vote on it, and extended an invitation to Mayor Serena to attend that meeting.

Resident Sharon Pickles addressed the Board regarding construction equipment on Gentry's property. She also brought up garbage in the backyard of the house at Wilmington and Center. 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 Rick Marketti asked what was going on with the Royal Blue property. They are in the process of obtaining bids for the work, but their permit has expired. We would like to have the property secured at this point or look into having it condemned. The ditches have had some work done. Morris has purchased a boom mower and there might be an opportunity to rent it. The work on the water was $35,000 plus $11,000 in material, and $1,800 in engineering.

Resident Dawn Mack addressed the Board regarding the Route 66 100th anniversary in 2026, and projects that might be initiated beforehand, such as welcome signs; installing a park on the Marketti donated lot; free library; fountain ($450). Can some of the gaming fund money be used? 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.

Resident Dan Jerbi contacted Senator Tom Bennett's office regarding the ditch and received a call from IDOT. He learned a lot about cleaning the ditches and it is not an easy process.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

At the last meeting, Gardner Grade School representatives addressed the Board regarding use of the Village's property to install a school track and presented their plan. It has been decided that the plan would not cause a conflict if there would be a need in the future to expand the sewer plant. Our attorney has presented a draft in response to the school. Comm. Kingma made motion, second by Smith, for the Grade School to use the Village property for the school track. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Smith moved, second by Wolf, to approve a half-page ad for the GSW Yearbook at a cost of $180 from the gaming funds. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Smith, to approve Ordinance No. 2023-03 "An Ordinance Amending the Village of Gardner Code of Ordinances As It Pertains to Amendments to the National

Electric Code – 2005 Edition – NFPA No. 70 Specifically Regarding Conductors". This allows the solar farm to use aluminum for conductors, and only applies to the solar farm, not residences. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. It will be effective once the ordinance is published in pamphlet form.

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Kingma, to table any decision regarding Red Tags to the next meeting. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Smith made motion, second by Wolf, to approve Resolution No. 001R2023 "A Resolution Approving and Authorizing Financial Commitment in the Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program". Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Smith, to purchase 100 barley bales and have Comm. Kingma pick them up. The company is Sugar Creek Malt Co. and they have quoted $30 per bale for whatever will fit on the trailer. We would reimburse Kingma for fuel. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Kingma, to approve Halloween Trick or Treat hours for 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on October 31, with a backup date of November 1, in case of inclement weather. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – A letter has been drawn up for the Grade School allowing them to use the Village property for the school track, however, we cannot guarantee or promise that the property will never by use by the Village. He also explained about the nuisances that were discussed earlier. If there are ordinances that address the issue, a judge might consider it but it is rare that he/she might rule on it. He has never seen a judge issue a fine per day.

Comm. Hill – Absent

Comm. Smith – Regarding golf cart stickers, there are several that do not have stickers. Grundy county can issue tickets, but they don't. On another subject, he suggested that funds might be set up to do projects around the Village and come up with a plan. Some gaming funds might be used for that.

Comm. Kingma – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Nothing to report

Casey McCollom – He has communicated with the county administration, and their recommendation is to not approve the Main Street crossing to silent train horns. We can pursue the other crossings but it does not make sense to do so. The Safe Routes to School program is on schedule. A preliminary plan has been put together regarding routes.

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report.

Mayor Serena – Same information as Dan Jerbi in regard to ditches, talked to the same people. It depends on weather and manpower. He really did not want to go to the politicians and go over the heads of IDOT personnel because it causes bad feelings.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Kingma, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

_____

Pat Malinowski, Clerk