VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
October 9, 2023

Monday, October 9, 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. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of September 25, 2023, were presented. It was pointed out that Grundy County purchased a boom mower, not Morris. Comm. Wolf made motion to approve the minutes with the correction, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Pass: Hill. 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: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report for the month of September was presented. Comm. Wolf moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Comm. Wolf commented that he would like to see the total in gaming funds on the report.

Public Comments

Resident Rick Marketti questioned the purpose of ordinances since they aren't followed. Hill commented that other municipalities have a code enforcer. He 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. It would be up to us to extend the permit or have to issue a new one. We would like to have the property secured at this point or look into having it condemned. The buildings downtown all have common walls and the adjoining property would need to be shored up. The ditches have had some work done. Further work would depend on weather and manpower available. Grundy County has purchased a boom mower and there might be an opportunity to rent it. The work on the water leak was $35,000 plus $11,000 in material, and $1,800 in engineering.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

A discussion was held regarding Red Tags and the possibility of applying a charge to the account. It takes Lynn at least an hour a month to prepare them, and two hours for each maintenance worker to distribute them. Comm. Wolf made motion, second by Smith, to charge a $10 fee for each red tag issued, contingent on our attorney's determination that it is permissible to impose the fee and when it could become effective. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

James Harris was on the agenda but was not present at the meeting.

Comm. Hill moved to donate $200 to the Gardner Grade School Blue & White Night from the gaming funds account, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Smith, Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hill – Nothing to report

Comm. Smith – Took photos of the Barra house at Wilmington & Center showing garbage in the backyard and windows boarded up. He stopped in Morris at Midwest Sign and commented that they can come up with ideas if we give them a price point. A discussion was held and around $2,500 per sign was decided as a suggested budget. Further discussion on a Lions fountain – Mayor Serena is attending the Lions meeting tomorrow night and it is an item on their agenda.

Comm. Kingma – Nothing to report

Comm. Wolf – Inquired as to the gaming fund total as it is not shown on the Treasurer's report (which only shows fiscal year numbers). He questioned funds in the TIF checking account. Can some of our funds be put into money market? He brought up extending free water in December as we have done in the past. Hill commented that he is totally against it. We gave away a considerable amount of money over about ten years and we need stuff in town. We raised water rates last year for only one year.

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – Nothing to report.

Mayor Serena –Provided information regarding the Village taking responsibility of Main Street from Grundy County, we would not gain anything besides a financial liability to the Village. It was last repaved in 2018.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Wolf, second by Kingma. Roll call – Ayes: Hill, Wolf, Kingma, Smith, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk