VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
November 13, 2023

Monday, November 13, 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, and Mayor Serena. Village Engineer Casey McCollom was also present. Comm. Rob Wolf and Village Attorney Bryan Wellner were absent. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of October23, 2023, were presented. Comm. Hill made motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

A list of current bills was presented. Comm. Kingma moved to approve payment of the bills as printed, second by Hill. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Public Comments

Dawn Mack addressed the Board regarding decorations for the downtown flower pots. She has submitted receipts for the fall plantings and wanted to verify that funds were still available for decorating for Christmas on November 20. For the free library, Mark Pourchot will provide free labor with the Village paying for materials estimated at $165. They anticipate a spring installation at the Lions Park. The maintenance workers have made some upgrades to the donated bench that was placed at the diner car.

Rick Marketti addressed the Board about the new truck and the procedure followed to purchase it. On the Royal Blue/Track Liquor issue, Dave Wright has indicated that he will follow through with the permit and construction on that project. Mayor Serena reported that some mowing is being done on the drainage ditches and will continue weather permitting.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business was presented

Agenda

Comm. Hill made motion, second by Smith, to ratify and approve the purchase of a 2022 Ford F-350 truck from Haggerty Ford in the amount of $54,165.00. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Comm. Hill moved to approve disposal of surplus vehicles and equipment, second by Smith. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Specific items are the 2005 Hustler mower which has been replaced, 2001 red Ford F350 which has been replaced, and 1991 GMC top kick which is not used or needed. Procedure to sell the items will be discussed at the next meeting. Suggestions included selling online or sealed bids to be opened at a Board meeting.

Eric Peterson of Simple Communications addressed the Board regarding a proposal to provide IT and phone services. He does not do websites. He presented a comparison of proposed charges versus current costs. Mayor Serena commented that he is the first provider we have talked to and therefore no decisions were made.

Melanie Elias, Superintendent/Principal of Gardner Grade School, addressed the Board regarding an updated proposed 400M school track. The Board is in favor of the new track; however, we will send it to Engineering and legal before agreeing to support it. Board members also expressed interest in attending a school board meeting to get further information on future plans for the track.

Comm. Kingma made motion, second by Smith, to approve a $600 per school per calendar year budget for donations. Roll call – Ayes: Kingma, Smith, Hill, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Reports

Attorney Bryan Wellner – Absent

Comm. Hill – He has talked to our attorney regarding a "code enforcer" as a way to encourage compliance with ordinances. He was advised that what we are doing now is the best way and most cost effective. Comm. Smith commented on the difference in attorney fees with our new representation.

Suggested sending a letter regarding the Pfiefer house on East Odell.

Comm. Smith – Presented some design suggestions for the Village welcome signs. He suggested a budget of $2,500 per sign, or $5,000 total. Once we have locked down the design, we can move forward. He will be seeking volunteer help with a foundation for the signs. Tim Wagner has volunteered his assistance.

Comm. Kingma – T & J is requesting increasing their contract from $500 per month to $750. He has talked to Toby at Test. They proposed to do the water for $500 and $600 for both water and sewer, with a 3-year contract.

Comm. Wolf – Absent

Casey McCollom – Nothing to report

Clerk Malinowski – We received a thank-you letter from the Gardner Grade School PTG for our $150 donation to the Halloween parade.

Mayor Serena –The auger on the plow truck has been repaired and filters/lubes done on trucks. Maintenance will apply a coating on the beds because they are showing signs of rust. They will drive to Dwight once a month during the summer to keep them in shape.

Attended the Veteran's Day program at the Legion on Saturday, about 85 people were in attendance.

The Barra property (the "purple house") has begun cleaning up.

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, Mayor Serena. Nays: None. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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Pat Malinowski, Clerk