The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 8, 2004 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Comms. Hibler, Hileman and Mayor Wise. Comms. Rankovich and Marketti were absent. (*Also attending: Clerk Barb Bexson, Engineer Guy Christensen & Attorney Scott Belt)* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the February 23 regular Board Meeting were read and accepted with motion by Comm. Hileman second by Comm. Hibler. Upon roll, all present voted in favor.

The listing of bills was next read. Comm. Hileman asked for two additional bill payments to be included, namely, Grundy County Sheriff's Department for contractual service for March in the amount of $1031.00 and Blue Sky Technology for computer repairs in the amount of $355.00. He then motioned that payment of bills be accepted as amended with second by Comm. Hibler; motion passed upon roll call.

Attorney Belt first brought up the October 31 expiration of the current garbage contract with WasteManagement, asking what particular details the Council wished to be included in the bid. *Comm. Rankovich arrived at 7:10 p.m.* and the Council continued to talk over the term of the contract ,no-charge spring/ fall clean-up dates; an additional optional clean-up date, no-charge Village roll-off, large item and yard waste collection and unlimited recycling. The Attorney will have a draft available for review at the next meeting.

Upon Comm. Hileman's statement that he feels the Village continues to get dirtier and there is a need for ordinances to be written so things can get done quickly, Attorney Belt said he feels the Village's ordinances relating to grass cutting and abandoned vehicles are doing the job intended; he then again gave an update on the abandoned vehicle citations that had been issued, explaining that 2 still await bench trial.

Comm. Hileman asked too about the old grain elevator, a subject discussed a number of months ago. Attorney Belt explained recent Supreme Court decisions regarding demolitions and steps that would need to be taken by the Council prior to any court action being initiated.

Regarding the home at 302 Lincoln Avenue, which is again unoccupied, both Comm. Hibler and Building Inspector Dave Zazworsky told that they have spoken with the owner who is doing clean-up and repair work; he will be moving back in when work is completed.

Comm. Hileman and Attorney Belt also talked, in general, about possible tax abatements, both to retain current and attract new business.

Guy Christensen of Chamlin & Assoc. reported that Mayor Wise has provided him with plans for the cleaning of the railroad ditches; he will study these plans more closely and report back.

Regarding the radium removal facility project, Guy told that the plant is running and running well with a few items yet to be touched-up. He feels the Village may be removed from the restricted status list in September.

After conversation with differing views as to street repairs, it was finally agreed that Guy and Comm. Rankovich will meet to look over those streets needing repair; Guy will then supply the Council with estimates for the project.

As there was no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 p.m. by Comm. Hileman seconded by Comm. Hibler, with all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner