The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 26, 2004 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with all members present: Comms. Hibler, Rankovich, Hileman, Marketti and Mayor Wise. (*Also attending: Clerk Barb Bexson, Engineer Mike Perry & Attorney John Bates).* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 12 were read and accepted; motion by Comm. Hileman, second by Comm. Hibler, upon roll call vote, Comm. Rankovich passed; all others in favor.

It was next moved by Comm. Rankovich and seconded by Comm. Hibler that the listing of bills be accepted for payment; roll call vote was unanimous.

The agenda opened with Tawnya Mack of Echols, Mack & Assoc., the Village's auditor who presented and explained findings of the annual audit. To begin, she reviewed internal control notations as follows:

The Village's DCCA grant/loan is to be appropriated in the TIF Fund rather than the Water Fund as principal and interest are currently being paid from TIF.

Monies in the Garbage Fund continue to diminish, which will create a deficit fund balance at the end of this fiscal year, however, because the Village has increased its levy and, under a new contract, rates to residents will increase in November, changes to this Fund have been made to maintain a positive balance.

On the Jefferson/Jackson railroad crossing project, payments were made by the Village with reimbursement received from the State. Some reimbursements were placed in the General Fund ($67,133.58) which need now to be transferred to the TIF Fund to accurately reflect revenues and disbursements.

On the Carbon Hill Road/Rt. 53 job, a project between IDOT and the Village, a separate Fund to manage monies received from the State was created. When this fund was depleted, additional costs were paid from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund as allowed. Additional monies later received by the Village from the State for cost overages was deposited into the General Fund; these monies now need to be transferred to the Motor Fuel Tax Fund.

Also on this project, Tawnya stated it may be necessary that the Village return any earned interest ($1,589.85) to the State. However, as offered by the Clerk and Village Engineer, these monies were received as a joint agreement, not as a grant stipulating interest monies cannot be earned. The Closeout of this job will clarify these terms.

With the report of internal control items complete, Tawnya commenced an examination of the annual audit report, pointing to various pages relating to revenues, expenses and the status of individual funds. She closed by stating that the Village has decreased property taxes and is running efficiently. Comm. Hileman extended his thanks and appreciation for suggestions on improvements. It was then moved by Comm. Marketti, seconded by Comm. Rankovich that the annual audit report be accepted and placed on file. Roll vote was unanimous.

Next, also listed on the agenda was resident Mary Walsh who spoke of her concerns and frustrations with problems caused by young people in Gardner, specifically at and near her home. Mrs. Walsh read from a prepared statement (attached) which included details of events that have occurred at her home. She added that, as suggested at a previous meeting, she has been calling the Sheriff's Department for assistance and feels that now she may be targeted for even more problems. She closed by asking what steps are being taken by the Board and what residents can do to help stop these problems. Comm. Hileman told that he also has heard of these concerns from other residents. Comm. Marketti stressed again that residents need to call 911 to report all problems.

The last item listed on the agenda was the garbage contract. Attorney John Bates informed that Attorney Belt will have this prepared for the next Council Meeting.

The following ordinances were summarized and accepted by the Council:

Ordinance VG04-386, making appropriations for all corporate purposes for the Village for the fiscal year 2005. Motion to adopt by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Rankovich, upon roll, all agreed.

Ordinance VG04-387, amending Ordinance M225 which established a curfew within the Village limits. Motion to accept by Comm. Rankovich, seconded by Comm. Hileman; upon roll, all agreed.

Ordinance VG04-388, establishing closing times for parks within the Village limits. Motion to accept by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Hibler; upon roll, all agreed.

After explanation, it was moved by Comm. Hibler that the proposal from Fatlan Trucking be accepted for repair of approximately 1,000 feet of sidewalk at a cost of $2.84/sq.ft., not to exceed $10,000. Second was made by Comm. Hileman and roll vote was unanimous.

An update on the radium removal facility project was given by Village Engineer Mike Perry. He told that a final pay estimate should be ready for the next meeting. Short conversation followed on items completed and concerns with "bleeding" of the brick walls. Mike reminded that the bond on this project remains in effect for one year but the Village can withhold monies if there are worries.

A request by Curley's Tap for an extension of business hours on Saturday night, August 7 during the Village's Sesquicentennial celebration was denied with motion by Mayor Wise, second by Comm. Hileman; upon roll, Comms. Rankovich and Marketti passed, all others voted in favor.

A letter recently received by Mayor Wise from GSW High School, asking for financial assistance for repairs to the tennis courts was given to the Clerk for delivery to the Village Improvement Fund Committee for their review and recommendation.

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. Rankovich with all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner