The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 10, 2005 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with all members present: Comms. Hibler, Rankovich, Hileman, Marketti and Mayor Wise. (*Also attending: Clerk Barb Bexson, Engineer Guy Christensen & Attorney Scott Belt).* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 13 were read and accepted; motion by Comm. Hileman, second by Comm. Rankovich. Upon roll, Comm. Hibler passed, all others voted to accept.

The Financial Reports for the months of November and December 2004 were reviewed. It was moved by Comm. Marketti and seconded by Comm. Hileman to accept and place both reports on file; roll vote was unanimous.

Comm. Hileman first motioned to ratify payment of December 27 bills with second by Comm. Hibler; roll vote was unanimous. He next moved for acceptance and payment of the current listing of bills with second by Comm. Marketti; roll vote was again unanimous.

The 2005 Council Meeting schedule, as submitted, was approved by all Members and remains as the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Attorney Belt gave an update and voiced concerns and questions on the proposed resolution of support for the Route 66 National Scenic Byway as it relates to billboard construction. Because the attorney has corresponded with this committee about these issues, the full Council agreed to table any further discussion until clarification is received.

Referencing past discussions on the current garbage contract, Attorney Belt informed he has received and reviewed all documentation requested and feels Heartland Disposal does comply with the contract as executed.

On the pending litigation matter, (Unifirst vs. Village of Gardner), a decision is expected prior to the next Council Meeting, according to Attorney Belt.

As requested at the last meeting, Attorney Belt has recorded a lien on the property located at 110 S. Jackson Street.

Comm. Hileman reported that a six-month CD in the amount of $800,000 has been opened, using monies from the TIF Fund savings account.

He then presented and motioned for acceptance of an ordinance for the abatement of taxes, levied in connection with the Village's 1997 general obligation bonds; this was seconded by Comm. Rankovich. All were in agreement upon roll vote. Guy Christensen of Chamlin pointed out that these bonds were issued for extension of water lines in the area of the former PLM facility and that these lines will become an integral part of extension of service across Interstate 55 when needed.

Comm. Hileman continued by reporting on information he has received from other municipalities on their operations relating to population, water users, issuance of building permits, number of employees, etc. He made note that, with the current economic conditions, the Village of Gardner will lose some State monies and because of this, he is looking into possible alternate options for water meter reading and lawn maintenance.

Three (3) additional truckloads of road salt were ordered, which, according to Comm. Rankovich, should be adequate to get the Village through this winter season.

On December 17, bids were opened for the revised watermain replacement project. Guy reported there were four (4) bidders with Ellis Trucking of Morris coming in as low bidder at $204,387.54. Other bids received were: Nibco Construction (Joliet) at $237,457.10, 'D' Construction (Coal City) at $246,828.15 and Brandt Builders (Morris) at $302,474.00. He recommended, and the Council agreed with motion by Comm. Marketti, second by Comm. Hileman and unanimous roll vote, that this project be awarded to Ellis Trucking pending verification of compliance with Village ordinance and specification.

Concerns with the condition of the brick at the water plant remain; Guy has arranged for someone to inspect and make recommendation.

Mayor Wise read and the Council proclaimed Monday, January 17 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the Village of Gardner.

The Mayor also read and the Council accepted the resignation of Joe Harrop from the Zoning Board of Appeals and recommended that if anyone is interested in serving on the ZBA to please let him know.

Lastly Mayor Wise voiced his concern with the increasing number of abandoned vehicles in the Village; Comm. Marketti suggested a list containing names, addresses and plate numbers be provided to the Sheriff's Department for handling.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:10 p.m. by Comm. Hileman seconded by Comm. Hibler with all in agreement.

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**Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk**
**Village of Gardner**