The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 24, 2005 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Comms. Hibler, Hileman and Mayor Wise. Comm. Rankovich arrived at 7:15 p.m.; Comm. Marketti was 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 Regular Board Meeting of January 10 were read and accepted; motion by Comm. Hileman, second by Comm. Hibler. Roll call vote of those present was unanimous.

The bill listing, as submitted, was accepted for payment with motion by Comm. Hileman, second by Comm. Hibler; all present agreed upon roll. Comm. Hileman moved, Comm. Hibler seconded that payment of $71.96 to Rub Ford also be accepted; upon roll, Mayor Wise passed; Comms. Hileman and Hibler voted to accept.

Patricia Kuhn, Executive Director of the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project was present to clarify and address any concerns that the Village might have with regard to the implementation of the Resolution In Support of the Nomination of Illinois Route 66 as a National Scenic Byway. Most questions and comments centered on the moratorium on off-premise signage along the route and the scope of the corridor. Ms. Kuhn explained this project and its scope, made note of the other communities and counties who have already signed on and pointed to the attractions and businesses that could benefit from the Village being included. She also responded to questions regarding existing and construction of new billboards. Council Members were satisfied with this information and a motion was made by Comm. Hileman that Attorney Belt again look over the resolution and make any changes needed for execution; second was made by Comm. Rankovich. Roll vote of those present was unanimous.

On the meeting agenda, Alice Tkachik spoke at length of her concerns and opinions on illegal drug usage and manufacture in the Village and surrounding areas. Mrs. Tkachik listed some possible solutions and corrective actions that could be taken. Other residents present also voiced their concerns and experiences and their interest in solutions to these problems. After hearing all remarks, Mayor Wise announced that a community awareness committee would be formed to address these issues.

Attorney Belt began by furnishing updated information on the litigation, Unifirst vs. Village of Gardner, noting that the judge has found in favor of the Village and has dismissed the complaint; any future action would now be up to the plaintiff.

Also, according to Attorney Belt, and as requested by the Council, prior to moving forward with the watermain replacement project, Ellis Excavating has been asked to provide certain supporting documentation which has not yet been received.

Comm. Hileman reported that, because payment for sesquicentennial advertising has not been received from a local business, a second letter will be sent asking for immediate payment or attendance at the next Council Meeting to give an explanation.

Comm. Hibler, in response to comments at the last meeting, told that a notice will appear in the newspapers and on the local access channel, to alert residents that he will be checking into abandoned vehicles, as defined in the Village's Municipal Code. Letters will then be sent to residents who are not in compliance.

Lastly Mayor Wise informed of a request for possible extension of watermain to accommodate a new business to be located in the area north of Dibble Trucking on U.S. Highway Rt. 66.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:40 p.m. by Comm. Rankovich seconded by Comm. Hibler with all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner