The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 11, 2005 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Comms. Hibler, Hileman, Marketti and Mayor Wise. Comm. Rankovich was absent. (*Also attending: Barb Bexson, Clerk; John Bates, Attorney; Guy Christensen, Engineer).* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 28 were read and accepted with motion by Comm. Hileman, second by Comm. Marketti upon roll, Comm. Hibler passed; all others present voted in favor.

The Financial Report for the month of March was next reviewed; a motion to accept and place on file was made by Comm. Marketti, seconded by Comm. Hileman; roll vote was unanimous.

It was then moved by Comm. Hileman and seconded by Comm. Hibler that the bills, as listed for payment, be accepted; all agreed upon roll.

Recognized on the agenda were Chris and Carla Irvin, present to discuss their concerns with the commercial properties located to the north of their residence on IL. Rt. 53. They first pointed out they understand that a business exists and have no problems with that fact. They do feel, however, that hazards exist with numerous cars and trucks that remain unmoved for long periods of time, vehicles parked too close to Rt. 53 creating a visibility hazard and large piles of yard waste being disposed in the area along their property. They also mentioned that when the property is mowed, grass, weeds and junk items are thrown into their yard. After listening to the details of their problems, Mayor Wise agreed to speak directly with both property owners, Jeff Lee and Ray Serena and to report back to the Irvins' on the results.

Regarding current legal proceedings, Attorney John Bates briefed that a status hearing with Unitech is set for April 21 and an appearance by William Lamping is scheduled for April 20.

Comm. Hileman first mentioned conversations he has had with residents who are displeased with the large piles of wood chips, logs and landscaping materials being placed in various areas at a home at 412 W. Main Street. Comm. Hibler will look into this and review the Village's codes.

He also reported receiving complaints on the ice-cream vendor truck and driver. Comm. Marketti suggested that the Village may want to do a background check; Attorney Bates asked for a copy of the Village's solicitor ordinance for review and amendment with the possible addition of a business registration.

There was next discussion on the proposed intergovernmental agreement between the Village and Gardner Grade School regarding Village-owned property adjacent to the school. Comm. Hileman reported he spoke with some school board members and that some changes in the agreement need to be made relative to the farm lease and taxes. Attorney Bates made note of these changes and will prepare an amended agreement.

Comm. Marketti reminded that, according to ordinance, water rates are automatically increased 5% each year effective May 1. Because there currently are adequate operating monies in the Water Fund, he motioned to waive any water rate increase at this time; second was made by Comm. Hileman; roll vote was unanimous.

Guy Christensen of Chamlin & Assoc. reported that all information required from the contractor on the watermain replacement project has been received; signed paperwork should be returned soon.

Regarding the railroad ditch cleaning project, Guy updated that he spoke with Mike Garcia of the ICC who told that it was not necessary that he be in attendance at the preconstruction meeting but will visit and meet while the job is in progress.

Paint peeling off the exterior of the water tower was next discussed, with Comm. Marketti stating he will review the current contract and possibly speak directly with the contractor about the deteriorating condition.

Lastly, Guy asked if the Council intends to perform any Motor Fuel Tax street maintenance this year; this may possibly be talked over at the next meeting when Street Commissioner Rankovich is in attendance.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:35 p.m. by Comm. Hileman seconded by Comm. Hibler with all in agreement.

Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner