The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 24, 2006 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Comms. Rankovich, Hileman, Marketti and Mayor Wise; Comm. Hibler was absent. (*Also in attendance: Barb Bexson, Clerk; Guy Christensen, Engineer; Scott Belt, Attorney)*. All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the April 10 Regular Board Meeting were accepted as read with motion by Comm. Hileman and second by Comm. Rankovich; upon roll, all present voted in favor.

Presented for review was the Financial Report for the month of March; Comm. Marketti moved to accept, seconded by Comm. Rankovich, with unanimous roll vote.

Payment of current bills was also unanimously accepted with motion by Comm. Rankovich, second by Comm. Hileman.

Introduced on the agenda was Village Planner Mike Hoffman of Teska Associates to discuss and bring the Council up-to-date on the comprehensive plan and some changes to be made, particularly pointing to a change form industrial to residential at an area near Gorman Road and Interstate 55, to accommodate potential residential development. Most conversation centered on review and further explanations of the various areas designated for specific types of growth, differences in low and medium density housing areas, the number of acres set aside for the various classifications and explanations of planned unit developments, special services areas and back-up special services areas.

According to Mike, any changes the Council may have will need to be implemented. The next step will be to schedule a public hearing to pass the Comprehensive Plan. He noted too that any boundary line agreements, when passed, need to be included and again stressed that the Plan should be reassessed at least once every five (5) years.

It was also agreed that there will need to be amendments for additional residential zoning categories, planned unit developments and, as brought up by Comm. Marketti, additional business zoning categories need to be created to accommodate specific types of business enterprises.

Attorney Belt reminded that a public hearing before the Zoning Board, along with an ordinance, is needed to transfer the responsibilities of the Plan Commission to the Zoning Board and that a draft will be prepared for the next meeting.

With no further questions or comments for Mike Hoffman at this time, Attorney Belt began by referring to his April 10 memo on the Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District which detailed his research into their involvement in the Village's planning and zoning process. After short review of this memo, he concluded that, although not required, the Village, possibly by the zoning officer or ZBA, could provide information to them as a courtesy.

The subject of impact fees and the improved acre of land survey to be provided by the schools was again brought up. Council Members once again insisted that, in order to proceed, this survey must be completed and presented to the Village.

On the Herrington Place Subdivision, Attorney Belt advised that, at this time, there is only an initial draft of an annexation agreement.

Concerning boundary line agreements, Attorney Belt and Guy Christensen are currently working on this, relative to both the Village of Mazon and Village of Dwight. Comm. Rankovich inserted that he understands the Village of Braceville is also doing research and feels that work on an agreement with So. Wilmington should begin.

Attorney Belt next told that the zoning issue with the billboard remains open. The Council suggested that he pursue this with the appropriate parties to get this resolved.

Comm. Hileman reported that a CD maturing in the IMRF Fund will be rolled over.

He also reported that only two (2) water meters yet need to be replaced and that the FCC agreement has been signed to allow for the touch reads.

Comm. Rankovich voiced concern with traffic in the drive along side the post office and in the alley behind. He noted there is no left turn signage at the end of the drive and feels the sign should be removed and the alley marked as one-way. After discussion, Attorney Belt was asked to prepare an ordinance to specify no left turn from this drive into this alley.

It was announced that Main Street at the front of the high school will be closed to traffic on Friday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. for approximately two (2) hours.

The annual audit of the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, performed by the Illinois Department of Transportation, found all Village records in order and in agreement with State records, thus, with motion by Comm. Hileman, second by Comm. Rankovich and unanimous roll vote, this report was accepted and placed on file.

Because of recent vandalism to the Village parks, according to the Clerk, Comm. Hibler asked that the Council know that his recommendation is that those found to be involved be prosecuted by the Village.

Village Engineer Guy Christensen reported that the ads are out for the water tower exterior coating project; bids will be accepted until the time of opening at the Village Hall, Monday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Comm. Hileman next reported that Public Works employee Jeff James has resigned. Discussion followed on the need and timeframe to replace this employee. He reported also that Steve Baker will be retaking his sewer license exam in June and checking into the course schedule to obtain his water license, as the Council feels a second person with these licenses is needed when George is away. Conversation then began with George Churchill regarding his job performance, the need for hiring a 3rd person and the expectations the Council has for George and the maintenance/public works department. It was then moved by Comm. Hileman and seconded by Comm. Rankovich that the Village advertise for a full-time maintenance/public works employee. All agreed upon roll.

In closing, Mayor Wise displayed a plaque received from the Office of the Governor, honoring the Village as the 2005 Home Town Award Winner in the category of Community Homeland Security; he thanked the Gardner Fire Department and any others involved for their work and dedication to secure this award.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:25 p.m. by Comm. Hileman seconded by Comm. Rankovich; all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner