The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 26, 2007 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Comms. Serena, Gerrish and Mayor Wise (Comms. Hileman and Hibler was not in attendance). (*Also in attendance: Barb Bexson/Clerk, John Bates/Attorney. Guy Christensen/Engineer)* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Tabled were:

Minutes/March 12, 2007

Accepted were:

Financial Report/February 2007 motion Serena/second Gerrish
roll vote: ayes 3, nays 0

Listing(s) of bills (Current/Ratify) motion Gerrish/second Serena
roll vote: ayes 3, nays 0

Agenda

1. Randy Wilkey brought up conversation on replacement of watermains, asking what criteria is being used for the decision on those to be replaced. Mayor Wise told that research with the Village Engineer was done on all those needing replacement, and those for immediate consideration are based on costs and need. Guy Christensen explained that some priority was based upon spending some monies from the TIF Fund, not all from the Water Fund. Randy next stated that since there a large number needing replacement, he feels work on some should have been done in past years and that installation of 8" watermains has now created a need for additional repair parts; Mayor Wise told will look into this and respond.

Mayor Wise also told him he would look into the reason the Village has used two (2) different types of fire hydrants which, according to Randy, makes it necessary to stock more types of repair parts.

Randy next asked for an explanation of the large salary increase approved for the Council. Mayor Wise told him there has been no increase in eight (8) years and reminded that the increase approved does not affect this current Council.

2. Gary Cox questioned problems with parking (drop-off/emergency) at the senior housing area. Mayor Wise told he spoke with Brent Newman of Grundy Housing Authority who is to look in to this. Lengthy discussion took place on allowable (off-street) parking in multi-unit areas. Dean Rankovich explained that suggestions had been made but were not accepted. adding that this was made clear to the Housing Authority at the time of construction. Tom Perkins further explained regulations for parking at multi-unit housing. Gary pointed out problems with emergency vehicles assisting residents and his feeling that the situation needs to be corrected, noting that the Village itself owns the right-of-way area. Attorney Bates inserted that there were in fact public hearings prior to construction and these issues were not raised. All agreed that Gary should be taking many of these concerns directly to the Housing Authority; The Mayor agreed to again speak again with Mr. Newman.

3. Jon Scudieri commented on and questioned the sale of the dirt from the grade school project. His feelings were that this dirt should have been retained for use on those waterman replacement projects now being considered. He was informed by Dean Rankovich that the Village was cited by the IEPA for storing this dirt at the water treatment plant.

On the generator for the So. Jackson Street lift station, Jon stated he does understand this can be done without bidding but asked who is to benefit by not putting this to bid. His feeling is that if it were bid, the lowest bid would probably be accepted, with hopefully a saving to the taxpayers. Mayor Wise told that Comm. Hileman was charged with researching this project.

Jon then voiced concern with the burning of garbage in the Village, whereas Village ordinance only allows for the burning of yard waste materials. Mayor Wise suggests a reminder may be put on the local access cable channel and that when this violation is noticed, the Grundy County police should be contacted.

4. Gary Riley asked, in the past eight (8) years, what has been done to put residents tax dollars to good use. Mayor Wise responded with items accomplished, including watermains and work at the water treatment plant. Dean Rankovich added that trucks have been purchased, taxes have been lowered and money has been saved. Gary mentioned that he has heard from those who feel very little has been done, specifically noting work needing to be done at the parks and on streets.

Comments were made that this is a Village Council meeting, with concerns that at this time it was becoming a political forum and that the business at hand should now resume.

Comm. Gerrish

Talked with Brandt Construction regarding the completion of the Washington Street watermain project. The contractor will return as soon as weather allows completion.

Requested an agenda item for the next meeting for discussion on water/sewer rate increases, scheduled for May 1.

Engineer Guy Christensen

Briefly discussed the four (4) watermains to be replaced this year (Elm, North, Washington and Jefferson Street areas). He told that plans are being put together with updated costs and should be completed in one/two weeks. Application needs to be made with the EPA and the bid letting scheduled and published.

Comm. Serena

Discussed with Guy Christensen some of the street maintenance projects being considered and their relationship with any watermain replacement projects. He and Guy will meet to further discuss.

Told he spoke with Fatlan Trucking concerning the costs for doing alley repair work and feels this would not be a costly project as most alleys appear to be in good condition.

Mayor Wise

Recommended appointment of Terry Marketti to fill the open position on the Planning & Zoning Board. Council accepted this recommendation (motion Gerrish/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 3, nays 0).

Because of concerns for safety, agreed to look into the area at former Rt. 129 and Main Street where numerous semi trailers are being parked.

Tom Perkins updated on the activities planned along Rt. 66 for May 5 & 6. The Red Carpet Corridor is heavily advertising many events being planned in the local communities, with Gardner hosting an all-town garage sale. He reported that many visitors will be stopping in our area and encouraged residents and businesses to welcome them. In addition he reported that he has just learned of a league of Illinois bicyclists who will be touring our area in June, visiting our jail and Village Hall area. Preparations are now being made and he requested some assistance from the Village. Concerning both these, Tom strongly requested that the Council consider forming some type committee to work on these type events in the future.

With concerns about the condition of the 305 W. Jefferson Street property (recently sold back to the mortgage company, but still occupied), Attorney Bates was requested to contact

the Grundy County Health Department for them to look into the concerns that this property remains occupied.

Resident Mike Pokornicki voiced his support for the work done by this current Board, pointing out the elimination of vehicle stickers, elimination of areas where building permits were needed and the lowering of property taxes.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:05 p.m. by Comm. Gerrish, seconded by Comm. Serena all present in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner