The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 11, 2008 in the Village Hall Council Chambers with all members present: Comms. Cox, Serena, Hileman, Gerrish and Mayor Wise. (*Also in attendance: Barb Bexson/Clerk, John Bates/Attorney)* All then stood for reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting were tabled.

Accepted:

Listing(s) of bills motion Cox/second Serena
(Current) roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Agenda

Railroad ditch maintenance: After discussion concerning prior costs, work to be completed and the scope of work (from the Rt. 53 railroad overpass to the Mazon River), the Council agreed to a 2-year contract with InterTrade Services Corp. (Mug-A-Bug) for the maintenance spraying of the ditch at a cost of $2,700.00 per year (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Attorney Bates

Reported a release form on trees damaged near the ComEd substation was received from Comm. Cox and told of changes that were incorporated based on his suggestions. Comm. Cox explained that after the form is returned, $300 will be received to cover this damage. Council agreed for the Mayor to execute this release.

Discussion regarding possible wine tasting and sale during the upcoming festival. Attorney Bates first reminded that the Village has only two liquor license classes (Class A for retail sales – Class B for packaged liquor) and that this request does not fall under either of these two classifications; therefore, he recommends the Village would need to create a new license category. He next reminded that in 2005 an ordinance was passed with restrictions on sales during special events for Class A license holders. Specifically, it limits the use of glass bottles or containers. As it was noted that wine tastings and sales are held in other municipalities during events, it was suggested that Comm. Cox may want to look into this further.

Mr. Joe Trippiedi representing Operation: MOMS (Men/Women Of Military Service) was recognized. He began by first giving background information on this not-for-profit organization. He then wanted to make the Council aware of, and to invite all to their annual charity fund-raising event to be held at the Gardner American Legion on Saturday, April 5, beginning at 5:00 pm. Brochures detailing this event were provided. Council Members agreed that information on this should be put on the local access cable channel and that consideration/acceptance of a donation be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Comm. Hileman

Questioned Attorney Bates regarding a letter that was to be sent to the owners of 134 Depot Street (Track Liquors) for a stop work order and for the Village to be notified of their plans for corrections. The Attorney confirmed that information had been received from the Clerk but found no update and will look into this.

Council agreed to Comm. Hileman's request for use of the meeting room by Provena St. Joseph Hospital for blood pressure checks, etc.; although a date is not firm, this would be held during business hours.

Feels the Village should put together a listing of those buildings that are abandoned, vacant and/or in serious disrepair so that action can be started to remedy these possible unsafe conditions and eyesores. He asked that this be placed as an agenda

item.

Comm. Serena

Told that he has checked on the condition of roads in the Village and has found some that are definitely in need of repair. He cautioned that as the winter weather is not yet over, more needed repair work may be found. Comm. Serena agrees that due to the slowness of work at this time, early bids for repairs may give the Village good pricing and he will complete his list to note those within the TIF District.

Reported that he has received favorable comments on the snow removal by our maintenance department during the recent storms.

Asked status on possible code violations and safety concerns at 209 S. Jackson St. Comm. Cox updated that this residence is unoccupied, has been looked into by Village inspectors, water service has been shut off and electrical power is being disconnected by ComEd .

Comm. Cox

Suggested that the Clerk keep and provide a listing of unfinished business so that everyone is aware of any actions taken and the results; Council agreed.

Re-stated that he feels the Village Clerk should attend executive sessions and has done some research (provided findings on this to Council Members), noting that all Clerks in these area municipalities do in fact attend and take minutes of these sessions. He then motioned for a vote that the Clerk attend executive sessions, seconded by Comm. Gerrish. Roll vote: ayes 2, nays 3 (motion failed). Comm. Cox then withdrew his agenda request for executive session this meeting.

Beautification Committee: Updated that a memorial brick, purchased and donated by Don Phillips, was raffled at a recent basketball game. On the gazebo project, extended thanks to FJ Metals and Shopwerks for material/labor donation of the beams and told he is looking for carpenters for knowledgeable help with lumber needs. On the donation of stone for the project, Comm. Cox told there is more available (possibly a semi truckload) at no cost and would like to take all of it for use on various projects. He asked for and received Council approval to accept this stone and for storage at the Sewer Plant; he will speak with Steve Baker for storage location.

There was a short conversation on maintenance personnel training and testing. Comms. Hileman and Serena reported on some contacts they have made. Comm. Hileman told he has learned that the State is attempting to set up some training at Braidwood for area towns. Various types of training at the Gardner Fire Department as well as at other locations will be checked in to.

Mayor Wise

Noted street light outages in front of Gardner Beauty Salon and Liberty St. Apartments (Clerk will notify Village maintenance personnel) and by the Lutheran Church at Jefferson & Pine Sts. (Clerk will notify ComEd).

Told he has again received a request for the Village to participate in a banner at the GSW ball field. The total cost is $300 which would be split equally between Gardner, So. Wilmington and Braceville. He requested placement of this on the next meeting agenda.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:50 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Serena, all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner