The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 14, 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, Guy Christensen/Engineer)* All present stood for The Pledge of Allegiance.

Accepted were:

Minutes of June 23, 2008	motion Hileman/second Serena roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0
Financial Report) (Month of June, 2008)	motion Gerrish/second Serena roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0
Current listing of bills	motion Hileman/second Gerrish roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Agenda

Village Auditor Tawnya Mack (Echols, Mack & Assoc.) supplied the council with the Annual audit Report showing results of their June audit of Village records. She briefly summarized and pointed to some segments of that report, referencing revenues, expenses and the overall status of the various funds. Responding to Comm. Cox's question, she explained the revenues/expenses for the recent festival and suggested he be provided with the general ledger report for his review of those items. She then told their findings are that the records maintained by the Village Clerk are in good order and consistent with reporting standards; the Village remains in good financial condition. Lastly, she pointed to TIF monies withheld from the Gardner Fire District; as the project payment was made from the Water Fund this will need to be addressed and corrected. This Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Audit Report will now be placed on permanent file with the Village.

Eng. Guy Christensen

Explained that Pay Estimate #1 was presented this meeting for payment to 'D' Construction for the street maintenance project; this payment includes all work completed, with the exception of stone and restoration at Main and Jackson Streets. Monies have been withheld for this completion; it is expected final payment will be readied for next meeting.

Concerning the generator for the So Jackson Street lift station, reported that the concrete pad has been poured and the generator ordered.

Told the first spraying of the railroad ditch has been completed.

As properly noticed, at 7:20 p.m. council members entered into executive session concerning probable or imminent litigation [5ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] relative to Atty. Frank Cortina's letter on the Village's withholding of a portion of TIF funds (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0). It is noted that Comm. Cox qualified that his affirmative vote was made under protest due to the Clerk not being allowed to attend. At 7:39 p.m. regular session was reconvened (motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Comm. Hileman then recommended the release of the TIF monies which were withheld from the Gardner Fire District because of a dispute, stipulating that the Gardner Fire Department will work with the Village to negotiate a settlement for the costs incurred to reconnect the water line to the Gardner Chronicle Antiques building which had been capped during the Fire Department's building addition project [motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 3 (Hileman, Gerrish, Cox), nays 2 (Serena, Wise)].

Attorney Bates

Presented an ordinance (previously provided to council members) setting forth a policy for the use of Village vehicles and equipment. A motion to accept by Comm. Serena died for lack of second. Comm. Cox then questioned the need for this policy and the one previously passed for use of Village fuel, along with the attorney fees incurred. Comm. Serena responded that this resolves any questions or problems in the future. As work was done in both June and July, Atty. Bates will look into costs. After questions and responses concerning certification and licencing requirements, it was decided to table a decision on this policy [motion Hileman/second Gerrish; roll vote: ayes 3 (Hileman, Gerrish, Wise), nays 1 (Cox), pass 1 (Serena)].

On the mobile home regulations creating a separate zoning category (R-4), Atty. Bates explained that

this can go along with the codification process in that it can be included and approved with the completed municipal code. He asked any council member with questions or possible changes in mind to contact him.

Concerning the Track Liquor Store (Depot St.) citation, Comm. Hileman told that no repair work is being done at this time and this problem should again be taken to the courts.

Comm. Hileman

Informed that the $700,000 TIF CD had matured and the monies were reinvested in a one-year CD at a rate of 3.91%.

Told information was received about two (2) days of safety classes to be held at Coal City Village Hall and presented by IML Risk Management at no-charge; both Village maintenance employees will attend.

Comm. Serena

Updated that the street maintenance project was complete except for some shoulder stone work and thanked 'D' Construction for a job well done.

Told a few critical comments have been received concerning monies spent on street repairs and on those streets and alleys chosen for repair. After stating he chose to run for this position and will accept criticism, he told he does not feel volunteers should be subjected to this. He therefore withdrew his intent to form a street and alley committee.

Comm. Cox

Requested permission to use Village water to water trees, adding that the Gardner Fire Dept. will donate time to do this work. Comm. Hileman suggested he let him know what watering needs to be done and the Village's summer maintenance employee will handle.

Brought up discussion regarding a phone call he received from a resident on an abandoned vehicle in the alley on Pine Street. It was noted the vehicle is in the alley behind a home and there are materials for recycling in the same alley a few homes away. Comm. Hileman reminded the Village can remove items on right-of-way properties and proposed that Comm. Cox give notice and have this handled.

Asked about sewer service to the Gardner Chronicle Antiques property (Division St.) and was told the Fire Dept. had allowed that building to tie into their service. There were no payments made by the Village for this work.

Told that the gravel pile by the gazebo project cannot be used in that location but would like some of it for other work. Comm. Hileman stated this gravel will be removed and stocked by the maintenance garage.

On the mulch stored at the sewer plant, asked if maintenance employees can spread this around trees; Comm. Hileman said at this time work is scheduled but when the committee is ready for this to be done, he should speak with the employees.

It was reported the Beautification Committee will again be meeting each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Regarding the brick program, Comm. Hileman asked the cost of the bricks and was told there is a contract with Trotter Landscaping showing this.

Mayor Wise

Told he gives token "keys to the village" to people as thank you and welcome gifts; as the supply is depleted, asked that this be on the next agenda for approval to purchase more.

Reminded that Grundy County Solid Waste Management is holding a used tire collection on July 25 & 26 at Morris High School. Also, the Beautification Committee is coordinating with this event and will collect tires at the Depot St. parking lot and transport them to Morris.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:22 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Serena, all in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner