VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
September 8, 2008

The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order by Mayor Tom Wise at 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 8, 2008 in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Members present: Gary Cox, Mike Serena, Dick Hileman, Bill Gerrish. (*Also present: John Bates/Attorney, Guy Christensen/Engineer)*. All then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Accepted were:

Minutes of August 25, 2008 — motion Hileman/second Gerrish
roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Financial Report (Month of August 2008) — motion Hileman/second Cox
roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Current listing of bills — motion Hileman/second Serena
roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Communications

Letter was read from the GSW Prom Lock-In Committee requesting permission for the SADA Club to solicit donations from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 13 at the intersection of Jackson and Main Streets. As this Club will comply with the Village request to have an adult chaperone on site, permission was granted (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Attorney Bates

Told of and briefly explained the Reverse 911 Community Notification System. Reported this system is currently in place with no fees at this time; however, bylaws are being adopted which will include fees for this service. The Village will then receive more information and, as this is optional, can then make a decision on participation.

Reported the Track Liquor (Depot St.) ordinance violation case was continued to September 30. Comm. Hileman recommended that action needs to be taken on the So. Railroad St. house (John Coleman).

Atty. Bates told also of difficulty with service of the Nielsen Grain violation. After questions were posed by Comm. Cox, he was shown the letter sent, along with pictures taken of the violations and concerns with this structure. From the audience, Tom H. Perkins gave his feelings on the condition of this building, what he believes can be done to correct, and stated he would like to see this structure remain. Comm. Hileman's feeling is that in the past they have been asked to make repairs with none being completed. It was agreed that Comm. Cox will meet with Gibs Nielsen to learn of his intentions for this building and its repair. Council also asked for a letter from Mr. Nielsen stating what repairs he will make and the timeframe for completion.

Comm. Hileman

Tabled from the previous meeting, began discussion on the use of the Village truck by Steve Baker to attend classes to obtain his water license. Questions on whether this is considered Village business , Comms. Gerrish and Hileman both stated they felt it is; Atty. Bates added that if an employee if furthering his education for their job, vehicle liability would be covered. Comm. Cox then questioned the contract with TEST (for operation of the water and sewer plants) with his understanding that our employees would not need to obtain these licenses. Comm. Hileman clarified that the Village contracted with TEST as we have no licensed operators as required by the State, but that when our employees become licensed, the services of TEST will no longer be needed. Council then agreed to Steve's use of the Village truck to attend classes [motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 4, nays 1 (Cox)].

Reported that Gardner Grade School had asked about the property lease with the Village and its use for additional parking; he told them that this can be done under the lease, reminding that Village regulations must be followed.

Comm. Gerrish

On potential amendments to the Public Services (water/sewer) Ordinance, reported he has given his suggestions to Atty. Bates and is also providing same to all members. He requests discussion and possible approval at the next meeting.

Comm. Serena

As agreed to at the prior meeting, informed the box scraper is on order from Sistek Sales at a cost of $856.00, well under prices received from other vendors.

Although not discussed recently, told he would still like to have the sidewalk at Jefferson and Railroad removed as soon as possible due to its condition. Availability of funds for replacement will be looked into. A resident requested that if a list of sidewalks needing repair is being compiled, the one at 201 S Grundy be included.

Comm. Serena (continued)

Relayed again his feeling that a salt storage facility needs to be looked into for this year. Guy Christensen and Comm. Serena will meet to look into this further and will report back to the Council. Relative to this, Comm. Hileman brought up the price for salt, noting it was about $92/ton last year and it appears it has more than doubled for this year.

Comm. Cox

Observed that the pad poured to house the generator on So. Jackson St. is smaller than the generator itself. Guy explained that the pad had been poured larger than the dimensions provided and that the placement of the generator is secure. In response to his question, Comm. Cox was told that there is no additional charge for the gas service or installation and that the total cost of this project is approximately $36,000.

Requested a date be scheduled with the Clerk to look into revenue/expense discrepancies with this year's festival; Comm. Hileman asked to be provided with the information and agreed to meet to go over these items.

Initiated conversation on safety training for maintenance personnel; was told that both employees attended classes held in Coal City (by IML Risk Management) on confined space entry and personal protective equipment. There was short conversation on the masks which, according to information provided, need to be checked monthly and fit-tested annually

It was reported by the Clerk that the new telephone system is to be installed on Thursday, with some training at that time and additional during the next week.

Resident Tom Perkins spoke to the Council on Rt. 66 activities, first informing all of Lenore Weiss' illness. He then provided information on the number and residency area of visitors to the jail. He proposed that a speaker/recording system be purchased for the jail, similar to that installed at the gas station in Dwight; he detailed that their recording is approximately three (3) minutes long and estimates the cost to be around $450. Comm. Hileman recalled that this had previously been talked about by the beautification committee and could be brought up for more discussion at the next meeting.

Tom Perkins also shared his feeling for the need for a visitors center, a place for visitors to stop for more information and assistance, stressing that this should be along Rt. 66 in the Village. His suggestion was this center could be open on specific days for specific hours and be manned by local volunteers.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Serena, all in agreement.

_____

Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner