The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order by Mayor Tom Wise at 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 22, 2008 in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Members present: Gary Cox, Mike Serena, Bill Gerrish (Dick Hileman absent). (*Also present: John Bates/Attorney, Guy Christensen/Engineer).* All then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Accepted were:

Minutes of September 8, 2008	motion Serena/second Cox roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0
Current listing of bills	motion Serena/second Gerrish roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0

Unfinished Business

Comm. Cox reported he met with Gibs Nielsen and presented a signed letter from him (attached) agreeing to make repairs and improvements to the grain elevator within one (1) year. After review of this letter, council members agreed to this one-year plan and that court action will stop (motion Cox/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0).

Attorney Bates

Presented a draft ordinance to amend the Municipal Code regulating water and sewer service fees and delinquent water and sewer service charges. Council members first held discussion concerning red tag door notices for service disconnections, the information that will be printed on them and the amounts to be charged for reconnection. Comm. Gerrish first explained that in the past he has attempted to call and/or visit with these persons but feels that this cannot continue and feels that, with these changes, this ordinance will be enforced. He told that these notices will include the amount due and the date full payment must be made, including also the right of that person to request a hearing prior to the noted shut-off date. At the council's direction, Atty. Bates will incorporate a statement that failure to receive a red tag notice will not invalidate the termination of service and present again at the next meeting.

Informed that the 207 N Railroad St. (Shawn Schultz) ordinance violation was up last week and asked if there has been any follow-up. Mayor Wise reported that some clean-up action has been taken, however, he will contact Mr. Schultz for additional information.

Comm. Serena

Updated that he and Guy Christensen again checked the salt storage building in Dwight, took measurements and looked over the area at our sewer plant (former drying beds) for placement. After saying his intent is for a very basic structure, he asked this to be tabled to the next meeting for Guy to get additional information as well the cost estimate to him.

Reported that Village employees have removed the sidewalk at Jefferson and Railroad Sts. and will look into replacement. Told he has spoken with Comm. Hileman concerning funding for this; bids will be obtained.

Citing the recent very heavy rainfalls (approx. 13"), extended thanks to the maintenance employees for a job well-done, noting that they worked around the clock during this period. Discussion followed on possible reasons for infiltration into the sanitary system, pointing to some problems with line blockages and debris in the ditches which was removed. Guy told that a number of years ago, smoke testing had been done, revealing catch basins and downspouts tied into the sanitary; he feels these were removed. Also found was extensive from manholes themselves; much work was done at that time by Joe Bexson to get these sealed. There was then conversation on the manholes and extensions made at the So Jackson Subdivision and the detention pond in that area. To reduce infiltration, Guy suggested the Village might first want to look at the manhole covers, then sump pumps and downspouts. Comm. Serena believes these issues do need to be looked into and corrections made.

Comm. Cox

Submitted a letter from Gibs Nielsen, offering a month-by-month rental ($25.00/month per Comm. Cox) of the grain elevator office building to the beautification committee and further, a note from the committee requesting approval to accept this offer (attached). He explained this would be used as an base office/storage area for the committee and possibly at some point a visitor center; basic repairs,

such as painting, repairing broken windows, etc. would be done by the committee and volunteers. He next asked the Village to waive water/sewer usage charges and fund the electrical and gas service. Council agreed that Comm. Cox should provide more information and discuss estimated costs to the Village with Comm. Hileman. Atty. Bates added that this should be listed on the Village liability insurance and, as this would be considered a lease, he will look into the statutory requirements.

Concerning the gazebo, Comm. Cox asked if water service could be brought to that area. There was discussion on there being service in that area many years prior and on the location of that line versus the need to bring new service from across Depot Street. This will be looked into further.

Reported that the clean-up weekend went very well. Told there were many tree branches and limbs placed for pick-up and suggested the Village should look into the purchase of a chipper.

Lastly told that again this year, Spring Grove Nursery will donate a tree to the Village. He will contact them and accept this tree, with a decision to be made later on the area to plant.

Mayor Wise

Told there are serious problems at the parks; has noticed many young people there after the parks are closed (after sundown). He reported they have been on the shelter roof tearing off shingles and pealing off the siding and graffiti is being removed almost daily. The Mayor said he has talked with Sheriff Marketti to request more frequent patrolling. Comm. Serena suggested that residents should call the Grundy County Sheriff's Department's non-emergency telephone number to report any of these type actions they see.

Recognized Ida Schopp who requested Council permission to blacktop a four foot (4') section of the Village alley at the Church of Hope. She explained that the church wishes to blacktop their parking area but would need that section to make the twenty feet (20') necessary for parking. Comm. Serena told he would like to look at the area prior to any decision and would do so as quickly as possible as the church is anxious to do this project. Atty. Bates stated this should be looked into first also to be certain there are no previously granted easements in that area.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:10 p.m. by Comm. Gerrish, seconded by Comm. Cox, all present in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner