The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order by Mayor Tom Wise at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Commissioners present: Gary Cox, Mike Serena, Dick Hileman, Bill Gerrish. (Also present: Scott Belt, Atty., Guy Christensen, Eng.) All then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Accepted were:

Minutes December 22, 2008	motion Serena/second Hileman roll vote: ayes 3, nays 0, pass 2 (Cox, Gerrish)
Financial Report Month of December 2008	motion Hileman/second Serena roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0
Current Listing of Bills	motion Hileman/second Serena roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0
Payment to Rub Ford for repairs to 1999 F250 Truck ($453.98)	motion Hileman/second Gerrish roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0, Pass 1 (Wise)

Agenda

Mike Pokornicki (resident, 301 N. Jackson St.) told he has had problems with branches falling from trees in front of his house, but located on village property. Although he has maintained and sprayed these trees in the past, he now feels the Village should handle; he requested, and Comm. Cox agreed to look into this. Short discussion followed on other trees in various locations that should be looked at, and if maintenance/removal is needed, estimates should be secured.

Atty. Belt

Told that water main easements for the Washington Street watermain project were prepared and submitted to the two (2) area property owners for their execution.

Updated that there has been action involving the billboard issue and that the Village has been providing information to IDOT as they have started proceedings to revoke this permit. He reminded that this issue goes back to 1996 with the annexation of the property and that in 2006, the Village had some involvement. An affidavit was received this date in Atty. Belt's office; he feels that this will require a decision from the courts at some point.

Concerning codification, upon completion of his review, there will be questions and suggestions that need to be addressed by the Council. He suggested it would be helpful to concentrate on this at a special meeting and agreed that prior to this, he would provide all members with his data for their review. At Comm. Hileman's suggestion, Atty. Belt will follow-up with American Legal Publishing Co. pertaining to the completion extension. In response to Mayor Wise's question on the Planning & Zoning Board being involved, it was stated they have been provided with the information but have not met; Atty. Belt added it is his opinion that the Village zoning and subdivision codes are up-to-date but that if there are issues the P&Z Board feels need to be addressed, there is an option for a combined special meeting. Comm. Hileman added his concern to Mayor Wise that the names of the members of the P&Z Board need to be clarified.

Also concerning the P&Z Board, told there is an outstanding zoning request, bringing attention to the need for the zoning map to be updated. He showed a color-coded map draft he had prepared by Chamlin & Assoc. which he has forwarded to Chairman Fosnaugh and suggested to him that the P&Z Board needs to go over this to verify accuracy.

Asked for comments from the Council on his December 23 memo regarding Main Street jurisdiction. Comm. Hileman gave his feeling that the Village does not wish to incur the expense to maintain this street. Discussion followed on existing documentation on the control of this roadway, with Atty. Belt briefly going over information he has, beginning with 1972 council minutes. Comm. Hileman proposed a letter be sent directly to the Grundy County Board; Atty. Belt will look into State Statutes in force in 1972.

Comm. Hileman

Responding to financial concerns he has been hearing from many residents, told he has been looking into and considering a rebate for businesses and homeowners. Although unable to find a fair way to

do this for businesses, he reviewed the General Fund, future expenses and the tax levy, unchanged from the previous year. He asked Council Members to consider his recommendation that the tax levy, passed in December 2008, be abated for one year only. After Comm. Serena questioned if the Village can afford to do this, he said he feels the Village can put off some purchases and repair projects for this one year period; he also noted that some monies were levied in the garbage fund and the pension fund (which has decreased for this year). Atty. Belt reported this has been done in other municipalities and falls within the jurisdiction of this board; it is to be done by ordinance and the Council can elect to abate the previous ordinance or can choose to abate a specific amount or percentage. Comm. Hileman requested Council consideration and placement for discussion/approval on the agenda for the next meeting. Council Members also strongly suggested that other taxing bodies should look into this and tighten their budgets to help taxpayers during these very difficult economic conditions.

Council Members also briefly held conversation on GSW High School's recent property purchase for future school construction. Concerns were brought up that this site is currently zoned as industrial and envisioned in the Village's Comprehensive Plan for that purpose. It was felt that industrial growth would not occur in that area should a school be built. Attorney Belt commented that the Village holds no authority with a building permit for property owned by a school but intends to immediately research information concerning the zoning of the property.

Comm. Gerrish

Told that upon receipt of signed easement agreement, the contractor is ready to begin work on the Washington Street watermain project, dependent upon weather conditions. Guy Christensen added that an on-site meeting with the contractor was held last week.

Requested placing discussion/approval of watermain replacement on Wilmington Street on the next meeting agenda.

Comm. Serena

Reported that because of snow and ice conditions, quite a bit of road salt has already been used this winter; told he cautioned maintenance workers on the amount of salt used, but to use that needed to keep our roads safe.

Told too that he had requested Village pick up of branches after the recent ice storm.

Guy Christensen

Told that the Clerk had provided him with boundary and annexation survey information received from the U.S. Census Bureau; this will be completed and returned shortly.

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:17 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Gerrish, all present in agreement.

_____

Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner