The regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board was called to order by Mayor Tom Wise at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2009 in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Commissioners present: Gary Cox, Mike Serena, Dick Hileman, Bill Gerrish. (Also present: John Bates, Atty., Guy Christensen, Eng.). All then stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Accepted were:

Minutes

March 9, 2009	motion Hileman/second Cox roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0, pass 1 (Gerrish)
March 12, 2009 (Special Mtg.)	motion Hileman/second Cox roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0, pass 1 (Gerrish)
March 3, 2009 (Special Mtg.)	motion Cox/second Serena roll vote: ayes 4, nays 0, pass 1 (Gerrish)

Payment of bills motion Cox/second Hileman
roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0

Agenda

Planning & Zoning Board recommendations letter of March 17: Comm. Hileman reported he spoke with Atty. Belt regarding this letter on recommendations for amendments to the zoning map presented to them along with their request for clarification on another parcel and that Atty. Belt suggested that these items should be looked at but no action taken at this time. Concerning Comm. Cox's question on the Suddick property (6600 S. US Highway Rte. 66), Comm. Hileman reported that there are approved ordinances on both this and the Dibble property (105 S. Old Rt. 66). Council then agreed to table further discussion until next meeting (motion Serena/second Hileman; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Comm. Hileman

On his call for a rebate of residential real estate taxes for this year, Comm. Hileman explained what TIF Atty. Tom Jacob has found and that, upon his arrival, Atty. Bates will have the written opinion from Atty. Jacob confirming that the Village can abate these taxes at 50% this year and 50% for next year; the amount then to be abated for each year would be $36,600. Comm. Cox began by opposing this action, feeling that as the majority of residents are within the TIF District, only 25% would receive the larger sum of money. Comm. Gerrish opposed, stating this would not give all residents an equal share of money and a more equitable way should be looked into. Repeating these comments, Comm. Serena also opposed. After telling the deadline to do this is no later than the end of this current week, Comm. Hileman motioned to adopt this tax abatement; motion died for lack of second.

Audience comments on this were made that residents may be pleased that the Village does not need to lay off employees or cut services in these difficult financial times and that the Village may want to consider keeping these monies to do things for the people.

Concerning water/sewer/garbage bill rebates, discussion followed on the ability of these funds to sustain this loss in revenues. Atty. Bates indicated the Council should keep in mind any terms in the Village bond contract. Comm. Gerrish told he will table any decision on this until he speaks with the Clerk to obtain financial information. An additional question was broached by Comm. Cox about a possible voucher to be given to residents; Atty. Bates will look into this.

Comm. Gerrish

Informed that bid opening for the 2009 Wilmington Street Watermain Improvement project was held this date; copies of the bid details were provided. Reported that thirteen (13) bids were submitted with the low bid of $47,105.80 presented by Stott Contracting of Morris. Guy Christensen of Chamlin recommended, based on their history and information, that this contract be awarded to Stott and noted that this bid is approximately $20,000 under the engineer's estimate. Council agreed to this recommendation (motion Serena/second Hileman; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Comm. Cox

Brought up the $250.00 invoice received for advertising in the Rt. 66 Red Carpet Corridor Visitors Guide which had been paid in previous years. Comm. Hileman felt that he had said this should not be

paid; Comm. Cox said, if so, this was his mistake and would like this to be paid. Council agreed (motion Cox/second Hileman; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0). Mayor Wise will provide the invoice to the Clerk for payment. Comm. Hileman suggests in the future they should approach the Village prior to printing.

Comm. Cox (continued)

Told that the Beautification Committee has agreed to pay for one-half the cost of the speakers for the jail. Council agreed to this project (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

Requested he be named as the building commissioner, to be a liaison between the inspectors and the Council. Noted a letter from Atty. Belt to B&F Technical to set-up a meeting with inspectors and would like to sit in on this meeting. Comm. Hileman felt Mr. Piccolo should first meet with the inspectors and then come back to the Council with the information; Comm. Gerrish agreed.

Reported that the all-town spring clean-up is set for April 18, with April 20 set for unlimited curb side pick-up of allowable items by Heartland Disposal. Related to this and with recent storm/tree damage, it was told that Future Tree Service would be willing to chip branches. Responding to Comm. Hileman on the cost for this, Barb Phillips said she does not know the amount but feels $1,000 would be a ballpark figure. Conversation followed on hauling to the beach club, Village employees picking up branches after these storms and that an estimate should be gotten from Future.

Comm. Hileman questioned Comm. Cox on his understanding of free electric service at the gazebo; Comm. Cox clarified that this was for the park lights but not the street lights.

Suggested to Atty. Bates that it would be better and less costly to email or fax information to the Clerk and for her to copy and distribute to the appropriate persons rather than his office copying and mailing individual copies to everyone at their homes.

As properly noticed, at 8:20 p.m., Council Members entered into executive session to discuss employment, compensation, performance of specific employees [pursuant to Illinois Compiled Statutes 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]. Motion Wise/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0, with Comm. Cox qualifying that his affirmative vote was made under protect as the Clerk is not allowed to attend. At 8:50 p.m. regular session was reconvened (motion Hileman/second Serena; roll vote: ayes 5, nays 0).

As there was no further business brought before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:51 p.m. by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Serena, all present in agreement.

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Barbara S. Bexson, Clerk
Village of Gardner