November 15, 2011

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Tom Wise called to order the regular meeting of the Gardner Village Board in the Village Hall Council Chambers. Roll call-Commissioners Dick Hileman, Mike Serena, Gary Riley, Jim Hibler and Mayor Wise. Also in attendance was Attorney Scott Belt.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of October 24, 2011 were presented. Serena moved to approve the minutes as written, second by Riley. Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Riley, Hileman, Hibler and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The Financial report for September was presented. Serena moved to approve the financial report as presented, second by Hibler. Roll call-Ayes: Hibler, Hileman, Serena, Riley and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The bills for November 15, 2011 were presented. Hileman moved to approve the payment of the bills with the exception of two (2) bills, Cintas, and one bill from Chamlin & Associates in the amount of $1,846.00 second by Hibler. Roll call-Ayes: Hibler, Serena, Hileman, Riley and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

AGENDA – Comm. Hileman began discussion on the tax levy ordinance, with no questions he made motion to pass the Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of taxes for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2012 second by Serena. Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Riley, Hileman, Hibler and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Comm. Hileman explained that he would like to pay off the general obligation bond as we are paying 5.55% interest on the bond and only getting .065% on the CD's which he just renewed. Discussion followed with Comm. Hileman explaining payout amounts, dates due and interest rates. Hileman made motion to pay the General Obligation bond off out of TIF second by Serena. Roll call-Ayes: Hibler, Hileman, Serena, Riley and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Atty. Belt explained that even though we would be paying off the bond the abatement ordinance still needs to be filed this year. Comm. Hileman made motion to pass the Ordinance providing for the abatement of certain taxes in connection with the issue of the General Obligation Bond for fiscal year 2012 second by Serena. Roll call-Ayes: Hibler, Hileman, Serena, Riley and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Comm. Hileman made motion to pass the Ordinance abating fifty percent (50%) of the 2011-2012 fiscal year tax levy, noting that things are still hard for people with the current economy and this helps everyone out, second by Riley. Roll call-Ayes: Hibler, Hileman, Serena, Riley and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Discussion began on the letting of the bid for the Pine St. water main repair, Comm. Serena explained that the current water line runs at an angle along Pine St. ending about in the middle of the street. Discussion followed with explanations regarding time frame for completion of water line and street pavement, payouts, number of taps and how weather will affect additional leaks. Comm. Hibler made motion to accept the repair bid from Stott with work to begin as soon as possible second by Serena. Roll call-Ayes: Hibler, Hileman, Serena, Riley and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Atty. Belt reported that while the improvement cost agreement was signed and the board had approved the final plat, final signature by the clerk should not be done until payment in good funds was received from the Congers. Atty. Belt let the board know that the contract for Kraus cable should be done soon. He then explained that new state and federal regulations are in place regarding identity theft. A draft of the protection plan was handed out, with explanations that both the state and federal requirements have been combined, and red flag items can be removed if not needed. He again reminded the board that they would need to take the online open meetings training. Atty. Belt also reported that he had nothing new on the retroreflectivity regulations, Comm. Serena noted that if the dates do get finalized Gardner does have a plan, which is to just replace all signs. Mr. Phillips informed the board that he has heard that if anything changes it will be comply dates, as too many large municipalities were complaining that with no funding help it was just too expensive replacing all signs. Atty. Belt then requested that at the end of business the board go into closed session.

Comm. Hileman reported that he has been in contact with Grundy County Animal Control and will be meeting with Sandy to get a better understanding of the amount charged.

Comm. Hibler had no report.

Comm. Serena reminded the board about the parking ban down town if there are 2 or more inches of snow, and asked the Clerk to put the reminder on the cable channel closer to December. Comm. Serena also reported that while the Village is not currently looking for a new plow truck he has found a nice one with only 12,000 miles, he just wanted to let the board know that even though they don't happen very often the deals are out there. Atty. Belt informed the board that the letter to Grundy County pertaining to Main St. went out last week; discussion followed regarding Main Street being plowed and actions to take if a response is not received from Grundy County.

Comm. Riley had no report.

Engineer Christensen absent.

Clerk Pasternak had no report.

Mayor Wise had no report.

Mr. Tom Perkins thanked the board for all their help in restoring the Street Car and expressed an interest in any pictures of the move from Fatlan's to the current location.

Pat Malinowski invited the board to the annual Christmas tree lighting to be held on November 27, at 5:00 pm.

Ida Schopp asked the board if they would be willing to sponsor the outdoor home decorating contest again this year. It was explained that a decision could not be made as it was not on the agenda, but it would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

At 8:00 pm Comm. Serena made motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion on employment, compensation, performance of specific employees, authorized pursuant to Section (2)(c)(1) of The Open Meetings Act, prior or future criminal investigations, authorized pursuant to Section (2)(c)(14) of The Open Meetings Act, and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this act, authorized pursuant to Section (2)(c)(21) of The Open Meetings Act second by Hileman. Roll call-Ayes: Hibler, Hileman, Serena, Riley and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

At 8:50 p.m. Comm. Hileman made motion to reconvene, second by Serena. Roll call-ayes: Riley, Serena, Hileman, Hibler and Wise. Nays: None. Motion carried.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hileman, seconded by Comm. Riley, all signified by saying aye. No one opposed. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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Becky L. Pasternak, Clerk
Village of Gardner