Monday, November 25, 2013 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, Rob Wolf and Mike Serena. Also in attendance were Atty. Scott Belt and Guy Christensen with Chamlin & Associates. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to the resignation of Jim Hibler the minutes of October 14, 2013 cannot be approved.
The minutes of October 28, 2013 were presented. Comm. Serena made motion to approve the minutes as written second by Hileman. Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Wolf and Hileman. Pass: Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The financial report for the month of October was presented Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the financial report second by Wolf. Roll call Ayes: Wolf, Hileman, Serena and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The current and ratified bills for November were presented. Serena moved to approve the payment of the bills second by Wolf. Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Wolf, Hileman and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Comments – Mrs. Ida Schopp reported to the board that she has been in contact with Midwest Industrial and they have generously sponsored the tree lighting ceremony this year. Mrs. Schopp has invited Mr. Vinachi to the ceremony, and requested that the board also be there to meet Mr. Vinachi and thank him for his support. Mayor Wise thanked Mrs. Schopp for all her help with the tree lighting.
Don Phillips thanked everyone for their help with the Veterans Day celebration. Mr. Phillips acknowledged all the help provided by the village to Coal City and Diamond following the tornado, and let the board know about the benefit being held on December 21 at the Diamond banquet hall with tickets being $20 each. Mr. Phillips also informed the board that the high school will be playing in the Coal City tournament on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday nights with split the pot going toward relief for the Village of Diamond.
Mr. Rich Goedert explained a problem he is having with the zoning of his house in regards to refinancing. Mr. Goedert presented a copy of the letter Dean Rankovich, the zoning officer, provided to his bank and requested that he be issued a variance. Comm. Hileman explained to Mr. Goedert that a variance can only be granted if and when one is needed. Atty. Belt explained that currently the home is legally non-conforming. Following discussion the board recommended that Mr. Goedert find his survey of the property as that would be absolute proof of all setbacks and if he is compliant a new letter can be issued.

Agenda – Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the home decorating prizes with the sign material and prize money to be taken out of the video gaming and scrap funds second by Serena Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Wolf, Hileman and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.
The 2014 meeting schedule was presented. Comm. Hileman made motion to approve the schedule with the correction of cancelling the October 13, 2013 meeting second by Wolf. Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Wolf, Hileman and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business – None.

Atty. Belt – reported to the board on the recently signed Public Act 098-0122 which is referred to as the, "Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act." Atty. Belt explained that there are restrictions for both manufacturing facilities and store fronts, that there are no rules or regulations in place as of yet and that the act has a four (4) year sunset. Comm. Hileman recommended waiting to see what rules and regulations get put in place so any ordinance passed doesn't need to be changed.

Comm. Hileman – informed the board that due to the 50% tax abatement he will need to transfer $25,000 from general fund into IMRF and $15,000 from general fund into Industrial TIF. Comm. Hileman made motion to transfer the money second by Serena. Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Wolf, Hileman and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.
Comm. Hileman explained that the water fund only makes a little money each month and it costs approximately $24,000 to provide the residents with a free water bill which could be taken out of the general fund. Comm. Hileman made motion to provide the October 21 to November 20 due December 20, 2013 water bill free, any late fees or past due amounts would not be waived second by Serena. Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Wolf, Hileman and Wise. Nays: none. Motion carried.
Comm. Hileman also reported that he is researching a different way to provide the abatement to residents, explaining that other municipalities don't abate they issue a refund after a paid tax bill is brought in but he will do more research and a decision will be made before the fourth Tuesday in December. The Village board takes the residents to heart and tries to keep the finances strong so that a free water bill can be provided to help people out. Fire Chief Jensen questioned if the board will be able to recoup some of the expenses occurred when helping Diamond, Comm. Hileman replied that amounts are being kept track of but if the village is unable to recoup expenses that is fine.

Comm. Hibler – was not present.

Comm. Serena – thanked the maintenance personnel for all their help after the tornado in Diamond, stressing that it is a great community to live and nice when everyone sticks together and helps.

Comm. Wolf – thanked everyone for all their help in Diamond. Comm. Wolf explained that Mr. McGuinn had requested half the money for the removal of the 5 trees after the last meeting. Comm. Wolf informed Mr. McGuinn that if half the trees were cut down before this meeting he would be issued half the money. As of this meeting half a tree is cut down, and while the village realizes that he has been busy in Diamond the trees will need to be removed before a check is issued.

Engineer Christensen – had no report.

Clerk Pasternak – read Jim Hibler's resignation letter. Comm. Hileman made motion to accept the resignation of Jim Hibler second by Wolf. Roll call-Ayes: Serena, Wolf and Hileman. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mayor Wise – Had no report.

As there was no further business brought before the council, a motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Hileman seconded by Comm. Wolf, all signified by saying aye. No one opposed. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Becky L. Pasternak, Clerk
Village of Gardner