

Garfield Township
Board Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2024

Called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor David Byl, leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Board members present were Clayton, Lard, Roland & Yarhouse. Also in attendance was Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs.

Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed. A change was made by Byl to increase the budget on 2-line items. Roland requested a monthly Blight report to the Board, this was added as 8A on the agenda. The motion to accept the agenda was made by Clayton, supported by Lard. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Yarhouse and supported by Lard. All ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for January and February was made by Lard and supported by Roland. All ayes, motion carried.

County Commissioner - Marlene Housler:

- The courthouse is in the process of updating their security. There were 2 knives that were found by security guards. Due to the problems, for safety reasons, there will be no beverages allowed to come through.
- There is some County property in Redding Township that is going up for sale.
- Redding Township now has a full Board.
- There recently were 2 meetings held for public opinion about the lack of service through MMR ambulance services. County residents had mixed feelings. At the second meeting MMR ran the meeting. No other outside services were invited. Marlene will keep us in the loop about the findings. Currently, MMR has a monopoly in this service.
- 911 Dispatch attended one of the meetings and she felt it was extremely informative.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs reported:

- 2/20/24 – 3/25/24 there were 12 medical calls, 1-mutual aid, 2 misc. (smoke alarm/illegal burn), 2 down power lines. 18 for the month and 53-year to date.
- New applicant – Michael Denoyer, paperwork has been done and physical. The motion was made by Clayton to accept this applicant and supported by Lard. All ayes, motion carried.
- Austin Burgess is being asked to step down from the fire department for non-participation.
- Kevin & SJ took a ride to the Federal Surplus in Bath. Kevin passed around a picture of what he was able to bring back for usage at the fire station, 2006 Kawasaki Mule has a couple fuel issues that they are working on. This is the Township's to keep.

Bill Farber requested to speak at the meeting. He is currently the appointed Drain Commissioner and is looking for the support of our voters in the November election.

Supervisor Notes:

- After some research, the Township has control and say to what happens to our roads in our community. In the near future we will need to address the issues that we are facing regarding the upkeep of our roads. Recently, Hayes Township had an article in the newspaper about this same issue with no funding for roads.
- The Board of Review was held and there were 3 parcels that were denied, there was square footage that was wrong and corrected to the property owner's benefit.
- Byl was asked to sign a petition concerning an amendment 2023-Public Act 233. Currently the State can override the Local rejections to large wind and solar farms. This is a petition to challenge the law, and they are hoping to have this on the November ballot. Roland asked if we legally put out a petition for residents to sign. Deputy Clerk, Denise Hicks will check into this for the Township.

- The Township asked Kevin Tubbs, Garfield Township Kevin Tubbs to attend the MMR meetings and report back to our Township Board on the outcome. Kevin is the best one to attend these meetings. Currently only Lincoln, Garfield & Surrey run medical services out of their fire department.
- 3 months ago, our assessor, Tina Wright, came across a mechanical permit for a HVAC permit for a medical marijuana permit. The owners are out of Miami Florida. This was located on Rock Rd. Byl contacted the State Police and recently received a letter from the Michigan State Police informing us that the grow center has been closed down. The concern we have now if the grow center, NOT registered with the State of Michigan that is on US10 (the old Penny's ceramics pole barn). Recently huge HVAC systems were installed at this location. Tina has asked for all permits in our County for these large units that have been given out.
- Byl reported that Jeff Best, the metal sculpturer recently reached out to see if Garfield Township wanted to participate in a program through the Clare County Art Program to have a sculpture installed for a year in our Township. The cost was going to be \$2000.00. Byl went to the Friends, and they chose not to participate in this project. Byl reported that Jeff Best reached out to him and really wants to put a sculpture in our Township at no cost to us. It will be for sale and on loan for a year. Roland about the insurance on this if something were to happen. Yarhouse wondered if Jeff Best or the Art Council would insure it.
- There is a Food Drive scheduled for April 6th in the County.
- 6 months ago, we were told that the Fire Department would receive a \$10,000.00 grant. Byl has been asking for this grant and last told, we were to receive it in April.
- Byl reported that the Blight issue is very time consuming, he has found some software to help with this process and automatically update the cited blight on each property. The cost is \$3,850.00 per year, he would like to share the Zoom meeting he had with a rep of this company and what this could do. Byl has requested this be on the April agenda. Roland asked how many parcels are on the Blight list. Byl report between 50-75 parcels is the most he can handle.
- The County has updated Gypsy Moth opt buffer to 100'.

General Comment- In January, Darrel Runyon asked to be on the agenda. He wanted a direct answer from Supervisor Byl as to why SJ Conroy used the Township truck to plow his son's driveway. He wanted to know if SJ was being paid on our tax dollars to do this. Byl answered him that it was addressed, and SJ was not on the clock.

Old Business: The Transfer Station refund has been addressed to the residents overcharged.

New Business:

- Approval for fireworks permit at Eight Point Lake on 8/31/24 w/rain date 9/1/24 and Crooked Lake fireworks on 7/13/24 w/rain date of 7/14/24. Motion was made by Clayton and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.
- Dylan Hund after Winterfest damaged a fence near the Depot. He has paid the Township \$500.00 for the damage done and has agreed in lei of the Township pressing charges that he also does 20 hours of community service for the Township.
- Byl received a phone call from a resident complaining about the Transfer Station closing at 4:45 pm instead of 5:00 pm. When Byl spoke to Butch, he told him that they started doing this mostly because trucks and trailers were coming in there, and they were not getting out of work until after 5:00pm. They claim they were told that they would not be paid after 5:00 pm. Byl asked about how the Board thought about some sort of compensation .Roland wondered if it was legal. Yarhouse said if they wrote 5:00, how would be know how long they worked. It was decided to put this on the April agenda.
- There needs to be a budget increase for elections and the retirement at the Transfer Station.
- Byl wants to increase 101-262 by \$4,500.00 this motion was by Clayton supported by Lard. Roll call vote: Clayton-yes/Lard-yes/Yarhouse-yes/Byl-yes/Roland-yes. All ayes. Motion carried.
- Byl wants to increase 226-801 by \$4,000.00 this motion was by Clayton supported by Lard. Roll call vote: Clayton-yes/Lard-yes/Yarhouse-yes/Byl-yes/Roland-yes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills: \$86,818.71 was made by Lard and supported by Clayton. All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment: Public comment was held.

Adjourned: 8:01pm -Motion was made by Clayton and supported by Lard. All ayes, motion carried.

Next meeting is 4/22/2024 at 6:30 pm / Budget meeting is 5/9/2024 6:30 pm.

Supervisor – David Byl

Clerk – Janet Clayton