

Garfield Township
Board Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2023

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

Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed. For those with a smart phone, the meeting agenda is now available through a QR code. The QR code is posted at the entrance. The motion to accept the agenda was made by Lard, supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023, Board Meeting was made by Yarhouse and supported by Lard. All ayes, motion carried.

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

County Commissioner - Marlene Housler reported:

- The Michigan House Committee on Energy, Communications, and Technology have placed House Bill 5120, 5121, 5222, and 5123 before the committee. These bills will take away township authority from setting up wind and solar energy farms.
- There is also a bill in the House to have mandatory septic inspection every five years.
- The above bills are currently on hold.
- Veterans Services has received a grant from Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for energy relief for veterans.

Friends of Garfield Township Parks – Barb Lijewski reported:

- The Friends group had their last meeting of the year on October 17, 2023.
- Decorating of the depot, pavilion and caboose area will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023. All are welcome to participate.
- The Friends group approved the following at the last meeting:
 - Shade sail at West Beach
 - Trees at West Beach
 - Paint the upstairs of the Depot
 - Half the cost of a fence between Garfield Beach and Cook's Landing
 - Finish the kayak launch at Peterson Park
- Raffle tickets are now available. Prizes are a kayak, a Yeti cooler, and a \$200 gift card. The drawing will be held at the Friends first meeting in 2024, which is in April.

Roads – New Speed Limit Sign on Lake Station Avenue – Jim Lard reported:

- We were led to believe that townships could change speed limits on roads, however State Police are the only ones that can make that resolution.
- There is a new "suggested" speed limit sign on Lake Station near the park. The suggested speed is 35 miles per hour.
- Once the road project is complete, a traffic study can be requested.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs reported:

- 09/26/23 through 10/23/23 there were 16 medical calls, 2 fires, 1 gas leak, 2 mutual aids for a total of 21 for the month and 241 year to date.
- Fire fighters Hawley and Hund are no longer with the department.
- On 09/11/23, a 9.1-mile walk was held in memory of 09/11/01.
- The garage doors on the west side of the fire station have been replaced. The old doors were sold for \$1,500.00.

Supervisor Notes – Dave Byl reported:

- We did not receive the Spark Grant. There were 450 applications and 31 awards, which is just less than 7%. There were no grants awarded in Clare County. There was one awarded in Isabella County, and one awarded in Midland County.
- On October 19, 2023, the USDA deposited the balance of the grant into our account. The amount is \$12,434.64 and was for depot improvement, signage in the township. This grant is considered closed.
- Hazardous Waste Day in Clare County is this Saturday, October 28, 2023, in Harrison.

Blight Report – Dave Byl reported:

- Met with Jenny in Clare County regarding the \$500,000 grant the county received for blight. To be considered, the property must be vacant, and the owner(s) must agree to sell. Dave to put together a list of 3 or 4 properties to submit for a portion of the \$500,000 grant.
- A previous blight property in Pla-Land now has a trailer on the property and people are living in it.
- Patson's place at Gray Lake has burned. The meter has been pulled from the property.

General Comment: There were no general comments.

Old Business: Tires on the township truck have been replaced.

New Business: Ordinances

- Discussion on the Noise Ordinance proposed by Daryl Runyon at the last meeting. Byl emailed the Board an example of a noise ordinance. The property where the problem is occurring is owned by Logan Rodriguez.
 - Yarhouse will look for other ordinances on noise.
 - Roland spoke with a sheriff from another county. The Sheriff says that a township officer must be involved and that noise ordinances are exceedingly difficult to enforce.
 - Lard shared that there is a state-wide noise ordinance.
 - Housler shared that the county will not enforce it if the township does not have an ordinance.
 - It is believed that Surrey, Lincoln, and Freeman townships all have a noise ordinance.
- There are several other ordinances that need to be reviewed by the Board:
 - Manufactured Home
 - Food Truck
 - Hazardous Waste Material
 - Liquor Control
 - Grass & Weed
 - Civil Infraction
 - Sign
- Byl would like the Board to work together and prioritize the ordinances that need attention. He would like agreement from all to move forward on updating each one. There is agreement to place the Fire Ordinance on Hazardous Waste Materials on the agenda for the next meeting.

Approval of Bills: A motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$51,543.22 was made by Lard and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment: Public comment was held.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2023, at 6:30pm.