

Garfield Township
Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2023

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

Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion to accept agenda was made by Clayton, supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023, was made by Lard and supported by Byl. All ayes, motion carried.

Clerk's Report: Clayton reported that after the last 2 Board meetings she reached out to MTA, she was concerned with the fact that a couple residents attending the Board meeting approached Trustee Roland, while the meeting was in progress. MTA stated "During a board meeting, if the board member is approached by a resident, unless it's an emergency, a recess could be granted, otherwise the resident would need to wait until after the board meeting is adjourned. This is a Township board meeting, not a town hall meeting. It is the only place and time the Township can conduct business as a board."

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

County Commissioner - Marlene Housler: There will now be 2 meetings a month. Meeting now at the new meeting area, recently renovated in the County Courthouse building.

Fire Report: Kevin Tubbs reported the following: 12/19/22-1/23/2023.
33 Medical /3-Fire/1-Mutual Aid/1-Car Accident/5-Stand-by at the station = 31 for the month /364 YTD.
New Officers have been assigned. Winterfest is scheduled for 2/25/2023.

Supervisor Notes:

- Byl reported that the Deputy Clerk, while looking through the MTA book, found some information of interest, so she emailed MTA for clarification. That a Trustee cannot work as a Township employee, (deputy treasurer) unless the assignment is approved by the Board. (This was originally appointed by a former Board) . Roland said she reached out to MTA and was told that yes, indeed she can be a township employee as well as a Trustee.
- Reaching out to VC3 for a quote to rewire the server area.
- Update TV in the hall for the meetings.
- Byl spoke about Roberts Rules of Order, the supervisor is the chair of the meeting. The board cannot respond to the residents in the audience. Anyone can ask to be put on the agenda.
- Byl met with Jeff Best on where to put the sculpture, a map was distributed to the Board.
- Baird & Cotter, our CPAs are working with BS&A to update our General Ledger from the audit.
- The Depot is being painted inside by SJ.
- Byl reported that there is \$11,000.00, left from the USDA grant, currently getting quotes on signage.
- A Food Truck ordinance is needed before summer.

Public Comment

- Joe Stragea is against the weed & grass ordinance. Feels the fine is too high and it violates the 8th amendment.
- Kathy Hutfilz has been here in Garfield Township since 1984. She wants to thank the Board for all they do to make this a great community to live in. She appreciates the blight cleanup that has been going on to make this an even better community.
- Dan Kalahar is so pleased that his area has been cleaned up and wants to thank Supervisor Byl for making this happen.
- Butch Lofton is going to stop non-residents from dumping at the Transfer Station, by requiring a permit.

- Sarah Ebaugh also wants to thank the board. She along with some others are planning an Art Fair in June, maybe bring back Lake Days and possibly open a food pantry and coat closet.

Blight: Byl distributed the blight report to the Board.

Old Business: Byl gave out changes he would like to see on the Weed & Grass ordinance. Byl ask the Board members to bring their thoughts and ideas to the board meeting in February.

Ordinance 2023-1:Civil Infraction Ordinance previously handed out to the Board over 3 months ago, motion was made by Clayton and supported Lard. Roland said she would vote no on this ordinance. *Roll call vote: Clayton-yes/Lard-yes/Yarhouse-yes/Byl-yes/Roland-no. 4 ayes, 1-nay, motion carried.*

New Business:

- Board of Review (BOR) is in need of another person; SJ is currently a sub. Ralph Stewart came to the podium and explained what the BOR does. There are 2 full days in March that they meet, it is for residents to make an appointment to protest their taxes and make sure there are no errors in our records. Dates are determined by The Michigan Tax authority technology process. There is in person training involved.
- **Resolution 2023-3:** Set an alternate date for July 19, 2023, BOR Motion was made by Lard and supported by Roland. *Roll call vote: Lard-yes/Roland-yes/Yarhouse-yes/Byl-yes/ Clayton-yes. All ayes, motion carried.*
- **Resolution 2023-4:** Set an alternate date for December 13, 2023, BOR Motion was made by Clayton and supported by Roland *Roll call vote: Clayton-yes/Roland-yes/Yarhouse-yes/Byl-yes/ Lard-yes. All ayes, motion carried.*
- **Resolution 2023-1: Poverty Exemption** – motion was made by Clayton and supported by Roland. *Roll call vote: Clayton-yes/Roland-yes/Yarhouse-yes/Byl-yes/ Lard-yes. All ayes, motion carried.*

Approval of Bills in the amount of \$43,225.48. Motion was made by Lard and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Lard, supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next meeting February 27, 2023, 6:30 pm.

Supervisor – David Byl

Clerk – Janet Clayton