

Garfield Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 22nd, 2017 7:00pm

- 1. The meeting** opened at 7:00pm by Supervisor Byl leading the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. Board members present were Byl, Yarhouse, Roland, Farwell and Irwin. Also attending the meeting were Garfield Township Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs; Clare County Commissioner, Dale Majewski; Shawn Gerbe, Sheriff Deputy and Jeanie Stewart-Friends of Garfield Township Parks Committee.
- 2. Agenda:** The meeting agenda for the May 22nd, 2017 after a motion by Roland adding the Sheriff Deputy. Supported by Farwell. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
- 3. Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the May 15th, 2017 Special Meeting with a correction changing ‘the’ to ‘three’ in item 6. Motion by Irwin, supported by Yarhouse. Motion carried. All ayes. Motion carried
- 4. Clerk’s report.** None.
- 5. Treasurer’s Report.** Motion by Roland to accept the report, seconded by Irwin. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 6. Trustee Irwin:** Reported on Road Commission plans to chip & seal Partridge from N Shore to Rock Rd and Cook Ave through town to Lake Station. ??? Also 2 patches on Maple Grove Rd. All paid by the Commission.
- 7. Trustee Roland:** None.
- 8. Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs** reported 29 runs for April, 14 were medical, 4 grass fires 1 downed power line and 2 structure fires and 2 illegal burns, 2 mutual aids, 2 car accidents, (2 short) The Flag Pole project is half way to its goal of \$1544. Donors will be recognized on a plaque by the pole.
- 9. Fire Dept. Auxiliary report:** Next car wash is June 3rd. July 10th is a meet and greet occasion. August 5th is an open house at the Fire Dept. The sheriff dept. will be in attendance and will have ID kits to identify the kids.
- 10: Brad Beach-Assessor** Inspections will be done by Tina on Crooked Lake properties and by Brad on Eight Point Lake Rd. He appreciated the fact that our township has networking so that when he updates addresses and names, etc. it only takes an upload to update the Tax Program. Makes everyone’s job easier.
- 11. Clare County Commissioner** – Left the Commission meeting minutes for anyone who wanted them. The commissioners made a resolution of appreciation for the MSU Extensions 100th year anniversary. Commission is continually seeking at ways to save money and are looking into insurances, like Workman’s Comp. With Manufacturers Tech Insurance they can save \$40,000.00 a year. Animal Control now has permission to carry side arms because of some of the situations they are involved with.
- 12. Jeanie Stewart: Friends of Garfield Parks**—She carried a railroad spike and declared she had never seen on that wasn’t rusty. Great Lakes has donated spikes, plates, ties, rails, etc. needed to mount the caboos at it’s new location. Rick McNeilly has donated his services to pick up these items. We have picked a new spot for the caboos and are waiting for final permission from the DNR. The Coal Tower has had an Interpretive Sign installed on it.
- 13. Supervisor Byl reported:**
 - a. Even though there is a buyer for the Hillcrest property, it cannot be sold, as it was deeded to the township.
 - b. We have 60 chairs at the Depot and 12 of them are broken. They need to be trashed out.
 - c. The home on Scotty Dr has been dismantled as well as the old light blue trailer on Eight Point Lake Dr, just west of Crooked Lake Dr.
 - d. Beach on Maple & Oak has new owners and is cleaned up.

14. Public Comment:

- a. Jim Thomson-Travel trailers on vacant lots are popping up all over and being used to live in. Why isn't the Trailer Ordinance being enforced. Owners are paying taxes on a vacant lot. Ordinance states trailer must be 700 sq. ft. Read it! I want my taxes reduced if they can do this.

15. Old Business:

- a. **Cemetery Fees:** The cost to buy a space in the township cemetery has not been raised since 1989. Clerk recommends the fees be increased as follows. To purchase a space, \$100.00; a summer burial would be \$300.00 and a Winter burial would be \$400.00. Burials on holidays and weekends are an extra \$50.00 for the sextant, same as now. All other fees remain the same. Motion to accept the increases was made by Farwell effective July 1st. Seconded by Yarhouse, Roll Call Vote: Farwell-yes, Yarhouse-yes, Roland-yes, Mark-yes, Byl-yes. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- b. **Legal Agent to sign Civil Infraction :** Supervisor is our legal representative. Motion for Byl to sign tickets, with full knowledge of the board made by Irwin. Supported by Farwell. All ayes. Motion carried.
- c. **Compensation for blight control:** Study of compensation for the last three years for former blight officer averaged \$4,000.00 a year. We received a \$7,000.00 check to remove a property lien on property sold. Letters out to blighted properties are extremely successful. May need an additional dumpster because of the extra trash coming to the transfer station. Three steps. 1 Board awareness of all properties, 2. File ticket, 3 use attorneys. Joint board decisions. Title to be Code Enforcement Officer. To be discussed at the next budget meeting. Roland wants job descriptions.
- d. **Paint the Depot.** Building should be chaked. Two sides look ok. Deterioration on the North side. .Some boards need to be nailed. Should have 2 coats of stain.
- e. **Parallel Parking:** Mystic Lake road to be repaved. Discussed parallel parking to business owners along the street.-20foot with room for driveways. Stripping paint is water base. Cost of \$1,500.00. Rotate stripping times for different locations.

16. New Business:

Transfer Station Attendant. Seven applicants were interviewed. Matt Brassinger was the recommended attendant from the interviewers. Motion to approve Brassinger made by Farwell. Seconded by Irwin. All ayes. Motion carried.

17. Approval of Bill: Irwin made a motion to accept the payment of bills, Supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried.

18. Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM after a motion by Irwin, seconded by Farwell

David Byl, Supervisor

Joan E Farwell, Clerk