

Garfield Township Unapproved Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 28th, 2019

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Byl leading the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner, Board members present were Byl, Roland, Yarhouse, Farwell and Irwin. Also in attendance was Fire Chief Tubbs, Dale Majewski, County Commissioner, and Ken Lynd, Lynd Insurance

Agenda: The meeting agenda for October 28th, 2019 was approved after a motion from Farwell and support from Irwin. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 23rd 2019 Board Meeting minutes from Irwin after questions from Roland in old business, (item d) to add account numbers. Account numbers were not an item discussed during the meeting, so cannot be included in the minutes. Supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried.

Clerks report. Funds Equity Report. Motion to approve by Irwin, supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Motion to approve the report was made by Roland, supported by Irwin. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Dept. Report: Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs reported 257 YTD. There were 25 incidents in September: 23 Medical, 1 Mutual Aid and 1 PI. He asked approval for a returning Fire Fighter, Emily Schmieder, pending physical and background check. Motion to approve the Fire Fighter made by Irwin, supported by Yar-house. Motion Carried.

Fire Dept. Aux- Fire Chief: The Haunted Forest was a success. He thanked the Friends group for their help.

Dale Majewski, County Commissioner: Left copies of the minutes of County Commissioners meeting. He reported Pete Preston gave a rundown report the Tax Rolls. Judge Ferrell is increasing the security at the Court to include the Treasurers and Clerks wing of the Court house.

Friends of Garfield Township Parks: Jeanie Stewart. A Bake Sale at Jays on 11-24-2019 from Noon till 5PM. The Trailhead Project was given a bonus. Received \$1,300.00 from the League of Michigan Bicyclists, to be added to our matching funds for our grant. This with and community funds donated enables them to purchase new windows for the Depot at a cost of \$12,000. They need to pay half up front, so they presented the township with this money to write the checks.

Ken Lynd, Lynd Insurance. Presented to Board with insurance coverage booklets from December 1, 2019 to November 31, 2020 to read and question. Basically, no changes. However, insurance companies are going with 'Designated Values' rather than 'Replacement Values' which might not completely cover a loss. Heidi Hudson, company attorney, would be a contact who could help in avoiding a law suit. Workman's Comp--if leave a Comp company, may not be able to get renewed. Cyber Liability-hacking is a problem. The state tacked on approx. \$30.00 per Fire Vehicle. If Rates go down, will these? Don't know.

Blight Update: Informed the board on the progress of 2 Civil Violations, and 1 demolition case. Another where the adjacent property owners are cooperating to try to get neighbor to cleanup.

Supervisors Notes: 1)Information available to the board to take part in a Class Action Suite on Opioids. 2)Computer Windows 10 update. Windows 10 is required for the Election Qualified Voter File to be downloaded into the Electronic Poll Book. Therefore, since the cost of new computers is high, it was decided to update the current clerk computer Windows 7 computer to Windows 10. The IT Company doesn't recommend this update, because of the age of the processor, but they will comply. This will be accomplished this week at a cost of \$373.00.

Public Comments: Joe Stragea: There was a false report to the Sheriff's Dept. Spent \$5.00 to get information from Clare County. There is a 12 foot encroachment from the neighbor. The public road to the park is an extension of the road. The ditch is not the property line. They had no right.

Keith Keeler: To clarify the Hillcrest property. No encroachment. Walk over the creek is still there. Not claiming townships property, but improving it. A) get a survey done. B. owners are not arguing about the property or roadway.

Len Pilz- 8 Point Lake: Recapped the program from the Discover Team. Sample from Lincoln Township. 2-inexperienced officers, 7 days a week, 10 hours a day. For a \$88,000 property valuation per year, average of \$33.00 per year from all residents. Would like to get a 2-year contract. Clare County would provide the car and equipment. How to proceed?

Brenda Keeler: On Hillcrest Dr. Who authorized Joe to go and make measurements?

Gay Messier: Simmons did encroach on neighbors and township property. She went over and measured. Wet clay is slippery. Don't know why they took the stairs. Toppings will sell his whole lot. Stairs started on Toppings property, but ended on township property. Toppings will give an easement. I have the 5 year plan for Cold Springs. Accessible route. Township need to evaluate road endings so we get a route to get to the park. Have ADA parking.

Undersheriff Midge: Need to know if township is going forward with road coverage. Replacing 4 deputies, other townships are taking them from us. Public safety not going well. We took a large budget hit. More taxes again.

Old Business: a.) A motion to send a letter to the hillcrest property owner made by Irwin, Supported by Roland. Debate on who should sign the letter. It is the Clerks job. Motion carried.

New Business: a). Alleys. There are 18 accesses on 8 Point lake. b) Land Division Policy. No land divisions may be made unless all taxes are paid and a certificate of proof is received from the Treasurer.

More Public Comments on the Road Patrol- Commented-Just put it on the ballot! Mentioned we need assessor rolls, petitions circulated, need to follow legal steps. There are bad locations all over the township, not just in Pla-Land. We need road patrol help. Most in favor of following thru.

Approval of Bills: Approval of Bills. Note: Transfer Station is doing well. We are 15% less than last year's billing and only 9% up for the last 10 years. The money spent applies directly for the services. Our Millage-General Fund is under control as is the Fire Department. County Road Commission wants also money. Irwin made a motion to approve bills, supported by Yarhouse. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Farwell, Supported by Yarhouse. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

David Byl, Supervisor

Joan E. Farwell, Clerk