

**Garfield Township
Budget Public Hearing
and Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 22nd, 2020 7:00pm**

Call to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Byl leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Board members present were Byl, Roland, Yarhouse, Farwell, and Irwin. Also, in attendance was Fire Chief Tubbs and Clare County Commissioner Dale Majewski.

- Board meeting recessed and the Public Hearing on the Budget was started. The supervisor reviewed the budget and asked for any changes the board members might have. There were no additional changes.
- A Public Hearing on the Solid Waste Assessment. No changes were necessary from the 2019-2020 Budget.
- A Public Hearing on for the Fire Department Special Assessment had no changes from 2019-2020 budget.

The Public Hearing was closed and the regular board meeting opened.

Agenda: The meeting agenda for June 22nd, 2020 was approved with a motion by Farwell, seconded by Yarhouse. All ayes.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes May 18th, 2020 was made by Yarhouse and support from Irwin after a minor name correction. All Ayes. Motion carried. The minutes of the May 26th, 2020 meeting was approved after a duplicate name by a motion from Roland seconded by Yarhouse.

Clerks report. Fund balance report for June was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Irwin, Supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Motion to approve was made by Roland, supported by Irwin. Motion carried.

Fire Dept. Report: Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs reported in April was 37 incidents for a YTD total of 137 for 2020. 23-Medical; 2-PI, 1-Mutual Aids, 4-trees; and 6-Power lines down; 1 grass fire. Bottle returns are being accepted by retailers. Please do not give any to the Fire Dept for awhile.

County Commissioner: Budget cut issues, 10% all departments. Census workers going door top door starting August 11th. Air Port cut by \$10,000. Court House now open, Masks must be worn, and temperatures are taken. Reduced cleaning Staff and laid off one Animal Rescue person. Could be more.

Friends of Garfield Township: Barb Lijewski stated there would be a 'Treasures in the Trunk' sale July 4th at the pavilion from 8AM till 4PM.

Candidates: ROBIN YARHOUSE Treasurer. Raised in area, supported many township projects for the Fire Dept and Depot. Tried to keep expenses down, am working to accept Credit Card payments, extend hours. 34 years as treasurer, took over from Mom.

LISA ROLAND Trustee. Worked as janitor and an Election Inspector for many years. I was appointed as Trustee and been reelected.. We take an oath to defend the US and Michigan Constitutions and the Open Meetings Act. I am the Deputy Treasure. I am for the taxpayers and I listen to them. Team player. Christian and a Republican

JIM LARD-Trustee position. Cottage on Gray Lake for 35 years. Retired Gordon Foods. Coach for Farwell Schools. This is a special place and I want to help it move forward, be involved. Team work is important. I am willing to learn about running a township.

RALPH STEWART. Treasurer candidate. Work smart and have a separation of duties at a reasonable cost. Paying taxes with a Credit card is important to many property owners. 200 communities use a better cost for tax services.

Blight Update: Had a 7 hour trip around the community. Have sent out several letters. Lots of areas are showing progress. Mud Lake is unbelievable, zero violations.

Supervisors Notes: **a)** Transfer our insurance to the Par Plan. Accident Fund will be our new WC carrier **b)** We have security at the Transfer Station. Camera coverage over the whole. Recycling is moved to the east of the shed. Parking on the west side. **c)** Board of Review is Tuesday July 21st. **d)** Hillcrest. Road Comm place an access. Cold Springs. **e)** Peterson Park now has two picnic tables and a bench. Friends Group paid for the tables. DeGeer had quote for insulated concrete work. Roads brined on 6-29-2020

Public Comment: J R MCGRAW Questioned why switch insurance companies, cost or what. Are we fully insured or is it a pool?

BILL GALBAMOS-Sink hole in road at the bottom of N Shore & S Shore in Lake. S Shore is a huge hole.

GAY MESSIER Hillcrest-Cold Springs. need safe access to the park. Have pictures-used to have steps. They were on County property. I have Road Commission minutes. I have a volunteer to replace steps. Stakes were placed but can steps be put in ROW? Too much liability. Slope is too steep. After road work, then can we proceed with the steps? Do we have to go after the Simmons?

STEVE LAMBERT 11005 N Shore; disgusting road conditions at 8 Point Lake. Need road fixed. When will it happen and how is it paid for I will return every month until something is done.

KIM TOPPING. and TOM Concern about property. They live at the end of Hillcrest next to Cold Springs. Contractor crossed over property line and removed several trees 11 month ago. Elevation altered again. Significant liability. Problem is worse. We feel violated and put upon. We don't want anyone to get hurt.

Old Business: **a)** Property purchase for the Fire Dept. Cost? Is it usable property? Kevin talked to Craig the owner. Pole barn small and need lots of work. Could make a historical building of the other structure or repurpose the bricks. Cost could be prohibitive. Need a clear cut plan for property use. **b)** Crooked Lake Fireworks permit , No special events OK'd by the Board. **c)** Roads. A Pacer Study was done and a map of the region distributed to the board and anyone wanting one. Red indicates the poor roads and most of our township is poor. Cost per mile is; Chip & Seal,\$30,000 and Black Top \$90,000. Money for our area is \$65,000. Don't know if there is a match program, yet.. Public Act 51 deals with roads. So if you need a road repaired, may need to start a petition. Partridge is a County road and was repaired by the County. Maple Grove was maintained with matching funds. Gravel was replaced on Clarabella road. **d)** What does the board think about having a municipal Hot Spot hookup for Wifi at the Depot location. It cost \$100.00/month. It would provide coverage for schools for student who don't have coverage at home to do their home studies. **e)** Cold Springs, Issue with property lines. Contrasting knowledge on problems with the county on erosion and property lines. Road end residents are greatly affected. Do the board need to rescind the survey motion? Special meeting on Thursday at Cold Springs, 7:00pm.

Approval of bills. Motion by Roland, seconded by Farwell. Carried.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Irwin, Supported by Roland. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

David Byl, Supervisor

Joan E Farwell Clerk