

Garfield Township
Unapproved Board Meeting Minutes
July 27th, 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, Clare County Commissioner Dale Majewski, Steve Scoville- Farwell Area School Superintendent, Greg Bertoldi-USDA Grant Chairman, Marlana T -911 Director.

Agenda: The meeting agenda for July 27th, 2020 was approved after an additional item for Windows 10 computer update resolution with a motion by Irwin, seconded by Yarhouse. All ayes.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes May 22nd, 2020 after additional information for a candidate was made. Motion by Farwell and support from Yarhouse. All Ayes. Motion carried. The minutes of the June 25th, 2020 Special Cold Springs meeting was approved after adding 'in May's meeting' when the survey was voted on by the board. Motion by Irwin seconded by Farwell, Motion carried.

Clerks report. Fund balance report for July was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Roland, Supported by Irwin. All ayes. Motion carried. Also mentioned was Av Ballots sent were 322, received back were 176 to date.

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 36 incidents for a YTD total of 174 for 2020. 26-Medical; 1-PDA, 3-down power lines, 2 PI; and 2-Road Hazards; 1 grass fire. Tom Shute has applied to be a seasonal driver. Irwin made a motion to approve, seconded by Yarhouse. Motion carried.

Greg Bergtold-USDA Grant, Committee applied for a \$99,000 Grant to develop a Master Plan for Community betterment. Received \$79,000. Plan is for 3-5 years to expand business and visitor opportunities in the area, bring in new and help the old businesses. Utilize our lakes, develop signage along M-115 and US-10. 1-Feasibility study. 2-development stage. What businesses are needed, restaurants, stores, child care, etc. Electronic copies of the Grant application have available internet.

County Commissioner: County Conservation District will ask millage for the Gypsy Moth eradication on the November election. Budget process started on 7-22-2020. Proposals on ballot are for 911, Animal Shelter and 4-H financing.

Farwell School Area Superintendent-Steve Scoville. Asks the township to allow a WIFI Hotspot in the Depot area, so students are able to have internet access for their studies. Only 60% of the students have internet. The superintendent is appealing to Garfield, Gilmore and Grant townships to create WIFI Hot-spots. The WIFI can be extended to the Depot area at no additional monthly cost to the township. Equipment cost to extend the coverage is between \$500 to \$1,000 and there are grants available for this that the school will apply for with our permission. Board granted permission for the Superintendent to apply for the grant.

Candidates: RALPH STEWART. Treasurer candidate. Will provide transparency and meaningful fund reporting. Inquiring of lake funds appear to be problematic. More efficient use of Tax program and payments.

ROBIN YARHOUSE Treasurer. Up for re-election. Enjoy the job, held off with upgrades until after retirement. Current processing works even if computer is down. Clerk has charge of the budget. I Want to continue to serve the township. Board needs to work together. I ask for your vote.

Supervisors Notes: a) Survey at Cold Springs in process. Rick McNeilly placed a drain tube, erosion is better.

Public Comment: Marlena Terrian, Clare County Dispatch. Proposal on 8-4-2020 ballot asking for a 75 cent monthly increase in the surcharge for 911 coverage on all phones, unless phone is prepaid cell service. Funding comes from the State. Surcharge would take effect in July 2021. Increase would be for Employees and technology, like GIS technology to pinpoint a house instead of just being close. This is not a millage and the surcharge could be reduced if the money is not needed.

JOE STRAEGA: Treasurers of the township, like member of the board, Robin. I like it the way it is. Don't want a change.

KEITH KEELER I disagree. I like what has been done at Cold Springs.

DEANNA CARL Need to lower Perch Lake level.

GAY MESSIER Cold Springs not surveyed yet? I appreciate the work but still can't get to the lake. No access yet.

CHRIS HOEFFLING Running for County Commissioner. Graduated from Alma College in 2019.

MERL HARMON Currently Serving a 6yr Term with the Road Commission. Works with several townships and the Farm Bureau. Been on the board since new members were added in March.

Old Business: a) Computer update to Windows 10. Resolution to purchase new computers was made several months ago and not acted on. Need to rescind the resolution. Explained that we will still need to purchase new equipment, so why rescind the resolution? Roland made a motion to rescind the original resolution of 9-23-2019 to upgrade the computers, supported by Yarhouse. Roll Call Vote: Roland-yes; Yarhouse-yes; Irwin-yes; Byl-no; Farwell abstain. Motion carried. b) Sale of the John Deere. Need to drop the price to \$18,000 to 20,000. c) Need to amend from 226-265-956.000 to 101-265-956.000 in the amount of \$8,000 from the May board meeting. Motion by Irwin to make the correction. Supported by Farwell. Roll Call Vote: Irwin-yes, Farwell-yes; Yarhouse-yes; Roland-yes; Byl-yes. Motion carried.

New Business: Resolutions to amend the 2020 Budget follows:

a) Assessor 101-257 \$600.00; Employee Benefits 101-801 \$4,900.00; Transfer Station Employee Benefits 226-801 \$200; and Crooked Lake Contractual 843-445 \$5,000. Motion to approve the amendments made by Farwell, supported by Irwin. Roll Call Vote: Farwell-yes; Irwin-yes; Roland-yes; Byl-yes; Roland-yes. Motion carried.

b) Tax foreclosure sale and blight: Five properties--First Right of Refusal. One being on Bluff Lake with blight problems that will continue. If township wants the properties, they must be used for public advancement. Roland made a motion to wave any purchase of properties, Supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried.

c) Peterson Park. John McLane is working on the survey at Peterson Park at a cost of \$320. Motion to accept the survey cost made by Yarhouse, seconded by Farwell. All ayes. Motion carried.

d) Phone Contract. None. Billing should not be paid by personal credit card. Many supplies ordered need a credit card because companies want immediate payment.

Approval of bills. Motion by Yarhouse, seconded by Irwin. All ayes. Motion 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