

**Garfield Township**  
**Unapproved Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 21st, 2018 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, Roland, Farwell, Yarhouse, and Irwin. Also attending the meeting were Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs; Fire Dept Aux: Becky Gott, Brad Beach-Assessor, Jeanie Stewart & Janet Clayton-Friends of Garfield Township Parks and Clare County Commissioner, Dale Majewski.
- 2. Agenda:** The meeting agenda for the May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 was approved by a motion from Irwin, supported by Roland. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
- 3. Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Regular Board Meeting by Yarhouse, supported by Farwell, and the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Budget Workshop Meeting was made by Roland, supported by Irwin. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve the report was made by Irwin, supported by Roland. All ayes, motion carried
- 5. Fire Report:** Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs: reported 27 runs for the month, 15 medical, 3-Grass fires, 1-downed tree. Total for the year is 126. The Fire Dept. received a grateful thank you letter.
- 6. Fire Dept. Aux:** Becky Gott. Pancake breakfast on July 14<sup>th</sup> combined with a canned food drive. A light, bench and flowers were placed at the Fire Dept.
- 7. Clare County Commissioner** – Dale Majewski. Change of CPL licenses with a star on it. They are, also, renewable online. There will definitely be an August and November election. Mary Cooper is the new employee in the County Clerk's office. There is a high rate of overdoses from the Opioid Epidemic. Use is up by 28% since 2009.
- 8. Friends of Garfield Parks-Jeanie Stewart** --The pavilion is coming, then Crawford Construction will continue the job. Another Grant was received from the League of Michigan Bicyclists for \$1,300. Janet Clayton--Couple things going at Peterson Park. The IBEW is donating the power pole, with all connections. The work to be done by the apprentices at the Traverse City Local employees. Pete Norlander will dig the hole for the pole. The electrical permit was applied and paid for by Vance Electric. There will be no fee from Consumers Energy since they are going to install the power near the current power. On June 30<sup>th</sup> the Friends will have Treasures in the Trunk sale at the Depot location. Rental spaces may be purchased by the public for \$15.00.
- 9. Supervisor Notes:**
  - a. Distributed blight updates
  - b. A new cell tower-6028 Cadillac Dr will be erected by the FCC.
  - c. Bill will be removing dead trees/bushes from the cemetery, the site owners will be notified and sent letters and pictures for their permission.
- 10. Public Comments:**

Len Piltz: The sheriff coverage for the township was cancelled. Would like to know how to get a proposal on the ballot to see if voters would approve a millage. He described the arrangement that Lincoln Township has for \$9,000 per month for 70 hours per week. Strongly in favor of the coverage.

Ralph Stewart: Eight Point Lake would approve a millage.

Susan Champlain: How can we get a proposal on the ballot?

Cindy Rank We pay lots of taxes, but would pay more. Proposal deadlines for the elections in August and November.

Joe Hart: Retired from the transfer Station to care for disabled wife and move closer to his family last May and received a letter of recommendation from the township. During the winter he agreed to come back and help out. The first day back, he said 100 people said they were glad to see him and he was the best employee. He said he was the Waste Management contact via email to remove the filled containers. On Friday, April the 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, he was fired by the supervisor and was told 'he did not have to say the reason for being fired.' He has a theory as to why he was fired. Policy states that 'no one is to take stuff from the Transfer Station'. Policy is not posted. Clare County is the poorest county in the state and Garfield is the poorest township in the county. Also 'two new people were hired so he was let go'. He is demanding a public apology and demands his job back. He has hired an attorney. Is anyone strong enough to step up?

Gay Messina: Why was this done to Joe. Can't anyone answer?

Dorn Blanchard: Agree with the last two speakers. Rewrite the code! I fixed a hammer and gave it to a worker wanting to be a carpenter. I've taken stuff out to give to anyone in need. I repair it and give it away. We, the people, own the Transfer Station, not the township. The township parking lot is not available for us in town. The orange fence should be torn down.

Surrey Lake Resident-Danny Wilson. Has been involved in politics. There are other options like special assessments. The pig farm, no zoning? Call County Clerk, Or Secretary of State. Lots of protests and picketing. Organized picketing. There are alternatives.

Dorn Blanchard What will make the stink go away.

Joe Stragea Wouldn't like to live down wind from a pig farm. That's a State Agricultural Zone-dust, smoke, anything in agriculture—cell towers—construction permits- all issued by the County and up to the FCC. The locals are only able to set standards for safety and construction.

Rod Williams The Pig Farm owners dealt through the Dept. Of Agriculture--Right to Farm Act of 1981, PA 93. Doesn't matter if there is zoning or not. GAAMP (Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices) page 11. Subsections are all preempted. All of the GAAMP conditions were complied with, which is 43 pages long. All were approved by Michigan State from the Right to Farm Act 1981.

Rose Geyer Margaret Geyer is concerned about campers parked in the west bound lane at Maple Grove near the lake. Hazardous condition.

#### **11. Old Business.** None

**12. New Business:** .a. Line item transfer. A resolution to increase the Workman's Comp for budget year 2017-2018, account number 101-801-709.000 by \$3,000.00 A motion to approve the resolution was made by Farwell, Supported by Yarhouse. Roll Call Vote: Farwell-yes, Yarhouse-yes, Roland-yes, Irwin-yes, Byl-yes. Motion Carried

b. Tax Sale-First Right of refusal. 5 properties were discussed. A motion was made to let the properties go to the August 4<sup>th</sup> Land Auction by Irwin, supported by Roland. All ayes. Motion carried.

c. Approve Crooked Lake fireworks for July 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 or if rain July 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Farwell, seconded by Roland. All ayes, Motion carried.

**13.** The Proposed budget was asked about. A special meeting was set for Friday.

**14. Approval of Bills:** A motion to approve all bills was made by Irwin and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried

**15.** Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm after a motion by Roland, seconded by Irwin. Motion carried