

**Garfield Township
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 28th, 2016 7:00pm**

1. The meeting opened at 7:00pm by Supervisor Byl leading the Star Spangled Banner and the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Byl, Farwell, Irwin, Yarhouse and Roland. Also attending the meeting were Garfield Township Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs, Garfield Township Blight Officer Rod Williams, Garfield Fire Fighters Auxiliary President Betty Tessman, Clare County Dale Majewski, and Sheriff John Wilson and several citizens.
2. The meeting agenda was approved with the additions of the Road Commission and the Fire Department Auxiliary, and the scheduled Budget Meetings of April 11th and May 9th, 2016.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting was made after a correction to Item 10, -- that the board would receive a copy of the Grant Application at the Public Hearing on March 23, 2016. Motion made by Irwin, and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried
4. Assessors report was given by Brad Beach. The Board of Review had 28 petitions with one from a veteran. This year we hired KCI to send out our Assessment Notices directly from our data base and saved the township \$791.00 and we should consider this for sending out tax bill next year. We had only ½ of the returns for bad addresses that we had last year. The treasurer and I are working together to minimize these address discrepancies.
5. The Clerk reported there were 446 votes cast in the Presidential Primary, 101 of which were Absentee Ballots. We have 1447 registered voters in the township so that was about a one third turnout of voters which is very good for our township. She also reported the acoustics in the office are very bad when we are busy and it is extremely hard to hear. Would like the board to consider have some acoustical ceiling tiles placed to try to absorb the sound.
6. Trustee Irwin stated that the board needs to enforce the rule on the metal bin at the Transfer Station as to whether a resident is allowed to take remove metal from the bin. We do recycle the metal to return the money to the township and have a rule that no one should be removing it. Someone almost got hurt when another person was throwing metal into the bin. So we, as a board, either need to enforce the rule or change it.
7. Trustee Roland -no report.
8. Treasurer's report was approved after a motion by Farwell, seconded by Roland. All ayes. Motion carried.
9. Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs reported 84 runs YTD. Total for March is 53, 19 medical, 1 Illegal burn, 3 misc. fires, 1 Mutual Aid, 2 car accidents, 1 standby, 17 downed trees, 1 structure fire, and 8 downed power lines. They had 27 calls in 18 hours on the day of the storm. Recommended new fire fighter, experienced-Shawn Harmon. Requested the Board look at the Web Site 'Lexipol' for policies and procedures affecting fire departments. Would like to discuss at the 4-11-2016 budget meeting. Looking at a twice a month physical training like jogging around the block, etc. Would like to have electricity at Petersons Park, even a street light. Would help a lot with Winterfest. The board agreed to approve the appointment of Shawn Harmon as a fire fighter.
10. Byl would like to have the boards approval to pursue the cost of a power pole at Peterson's Park.
11. Clare County Commissioner Dale Majewski left the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting for those who wanted them. He mentioned the court house will never close for in climate weather, but certain offices might be. So call before you go. The elevator upgrade is complete. The City of Harrison and Clare County and

Hayes Township are partnering with the Harrison Airport, forming an Airport Authority Object is to make repairs and grow the airport.

12. Fire Department Auxiliary. Betty Tessman reported on the successful Winter Fest Event which exceeded all expectations. Doubling last years proceeds to \$4,399.00. Next scheduled meeting is 10-2-2016 at 10:00am to plan the 2017 event. The Easter Egg Hunt drew 45 kids and Lincoln donated eggs. A bake sale is scheduled at Jay's Sporting Goods from 11am till 4pm on 4-9-2016 and on 4-16-2016 the Auxiliary & Fire Dept. will be at the Paula Pirnstill Health Fair from 10AM till 2PM. On 4-21 there will be an Open House at the Fire Department from 10A till 2PM. Demonstrations of equipment and games are planned. Still have a canister at the Transfer Station for bottles and cans.

13. Road Commission-Julie Lightfoot- and Foreman Dave Sunday spoke about road conditions and the frost being out of the roads so quickly. Some roads are even closed due to the bad conditions and soft, sloppy surfaces. There will be a presentation for townships to be able to get some matching funds for some of their roads needing repair in April or May. They addressed several concerns from the attendees.

14. Sheriff John Wilson gave some statistics on the number of incidents in the county reported through 911 service. There were 36,217 incidents of which 28,166 were handled by the county. He gave a breakdown of the incidents for the year 2015. The county jail is housing 175-180 inmates which has increased to budget by \$108,000. They receive \$60 per day for out of area inmates. He reported on IRS scams and Microsoft Help scams. If an ORV ticket is issued, the sheriff department gets half of the revenue and the other half goes to the Road Commission. The Marine Patrol revenue for 2015 was \$10,183.00.

15. Candidates running for office. Several candidates were attending and spoke of their credentials to run for the office they seek. Kim Davis is running for Clare County Clerk. John Wilson is seeking re-election as Sheriff. Julie Lightfoot is seeking her Township Clerk position and Dale Majewski is seeking re-election as a County Commissioner.

16. Michigan Chloride Sales, Brad Harkness addressed the citizenry about the brining and it's pros and cons as it pertains to gravel/dirt roads in the township. The brining is DNR /DEQ approved and pumped directly from the ground. Brining 2-3 times a year holds the dust down, therefore holding the gravel in place and the road should not require more gravel for approx.10 years. The brine is not toxic to the surrounding area.

17. Jeannie Stewart, Garfield Township Park Committee Chair, discussed the results of the Public Hearing on March 23rd, 2016 for MNRTF Grant the Recreation/Parks Committee is applying for. Nineteen citizens attended the meeting, including a quorum of three board members. She reiterated that the grant projected has an estimated cost of \$326,400, with the Trust Fund grant providing \$228,400 and the Township committing to raise 30% or \$98,000. There will not be a tax increase for this project. The Grant Staff makes site visits, provides a preliminary approval, and makes recommendations to the State Legislature. She recommended the Board to commit to the MNRTF Grant Application.

18. Supervisor Conference in April.

20. Old Business- The six sealed Dodge Pickup bids were opened with the bids ranging from \$2,005.00 down to \$1,000.00. Motion by Irwin, supported by Farwell to accept the highest bid. All ayes, Motion carried.

19. New Business:

a: Better chairs are needed in the township hall, A picture of a plastic molded, stackable chair was presented at a cost of \$30.00. Another metal chair was also presented. Roland to bring a recommendation to the board next meeting on what should be purchased.

b: A motion to approve the MNRTF Grant was requested by the supervisor. Much discussion ensued amongst the board. Farwell made the motion to apply for the Grant. Supported by Yarhouse. Roll Call Vote: Farwell-yes; Yarhouse-yes; Irwin-no; Roland-no; Byl-yes. Motion Carried.

21. Public Comment:

Edgar Espinosa commented that it was disturbing to him that the vote was made before the chance for the public comment.

L G Roberts doesn't like the cost. Wants to know exactly what cost is.

G Bergtold has support of 120 members of the Crooked Lake Improvement Association who are wholly behind the grant application. He drove up from Midland to attend the Public Hearing on Wednesday the 23rd.

The citizens attending were reminded the Public Hearing held on Wednesday, 3-23-2016, at 7:00pm to voice their opinions on the grant. The Public Hearing could not, legally, be changed,

22. Approval of bills. Motion to approve all bills was made by Irwin. Supported by Roland. All ayes. Motion carried.

23. Meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.