

**Garfield Township**  
**Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 23rd, 2016**  
**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, Farwell, Irwin, and Roland. Yarhouse was excused. Also attending the meeting were Garfield Township Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs, Garfield Township Blight Officer Rod Williams, Clare County Dale Majewski, and several candidates seeking election for various offices.
2. The meeting agenda for the May 23rd was approved.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the May 9th Special Budget Meeting were approved after a correction to Item #8 – to remove the sentence about moving the caboos. Motion made by Irwin, and supported by Roland. All ayes. Motion carried
4. The clerk reported the cost of the chairs was higher than first quoted and acknowledged the Quilt Block Brochure cover with our Depot pictured and the Clare County Plat Book with our Coal Chute on it's cover.
5. Treasurer's report was approved after a motion by Roland, seconded by Irwin. All ayes. Yarhouse excused. Motion carried.
6. Trustee Irwin reported the Road Commission did not attach a price list for the roads needing repair.
7. Trustee Roland received a request from a resident that all public accesses be posted. Township liability and maintenance could be a problem. Too many accesses to be posted. She also mentioned a Truck Crossing sign at the Transfer Station and a Stop sign leaving the Transfer Station should be installed. Discussion about a sign at the Maple Grove intersection. A truck broom is also needed for clean-up after accidents.
8. Amy Swainston, DNR Recreational Trail Specialist-spoke about the Coal Chute cleanup with a request for volunteers to assist with the clean-u, as well as partnering with the Clare Historical Society to remove and control growth around the chute, add pea gravel and a small fence, block the window, and add No Trespassing signs. CMU have a grant to add art murals along the trail path, designed by students depicting the history of the trail, on a One Year Use Permit to be done by June 10<sup>th</sup>. After the year is up, then they would like the murals placed in Clare, Farwell and Lake Station. Clean-up Wednesday 9am till noon Call Marty Johnson to confirm. Structure, upon inspection, appears to be.
9. Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs reported 124 runs YTD. There is a total of 22 for May. 17 medical, 1 car/truck accident, 1 mutual aid, 3 grass fires. Fire Dept. Open House this past Saturday with demonstrations of Jaws of Life and other equipment. About 75 people attended. Comment of how professional these people are.
10. Byl would like to have the board's 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 Grand Opening of Freedom Village is May 25, at 1:00pm which will exhibit the Wall of Tears. The reroofing of the county building is nearly completed, then the 911 Dispatch will be reroofed. The Board of Commissioners voted on a Resolution to support the Lake Station Trailhead. Neighbor Watch program at Lake George planned for June 18<sup>th</sup>, to include a car and bike show from 10am till 2pm. Lots of hot dogs. Attendee question-Has the county ever considered doing an outside audit? What about inventory and assets?

12. Candidates: Dr. Robert Townsend running for State Representative to replace term limited Joel Johnson. Barney Ledford running for Sheriff. Kim Davis running for County Clerk. Barb Lijewski running for Township Trustee.

13. Rod Williams Blight Officer. Fire damaged building in April and there is an Administrative Warrant to have the building removed. Signed by Judge Farrell on the 19<sup>th</sup>. It was, also, in a foreclosure. I was given 6 more to take care of and have also written a few letters of my own.

14. Marty Rottiers. We are moving forward with raising money for our grant. She shared statistics of grants in the state since 1979 of which Clare County has only received 9. DNR is behind us because of our 25 year lease. The committee is working to receive a 501(c)3 status from the federal government. This will allow all contributing to the grant fund to make legal tax deductible donations. The committee requests to use our township attorney to review our organization structure when it is completed.

15. Supervisor Byl reported: Township Attorneys are Fahey & Associates replacing Dryer & Hovey, who were to wrap up the 5 cases open within 6 months. No progress. He listed the 5 cases still pending. The Maple Rd lien was paid by the current owner for \$3,386.86 and the discharge of the lien is forthcoming from Fahey. The Rock Road property has forfeited. The Lake Station property has a judgment of \$4,685. The Eight Point Lake property had a sheriff sale last Wednesday and is in default for \$3,904. The Scotty Dr. property which has items at the Transfer Station is in default also for \$2,036. All of these properties have been or are being transferred to Fahey & Associates for resolution. Going forward, the latest property which had the recent fire that Rod alluded to with the warrant issued, also has an illegal trailer on the property, which we have photos on taken from the road. Attendee question: Does the attorney have a time limit on how long they can sit on a property?

16. Public comment:

S Jeffrey: 8 Point Lake Property Owners Association; will have a meet the candidates for people coming in or leaving their meeting.

R Stewart: 8 Point Lake announced an ORV training class on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> taught by the sheriff dept. a lunch is provided. Register at Bev's Lake Store or the sheriff's dept.

P Mayfield, Co Clerk /Register of Deeds. Attended a Legislative Conference last week.

New Jurors letters are out and a prospective juror has 10 days to respond to the questionnaire.

Election Inspector training is in July. All inspectors must attend training every two years.

No straight party voting at Elections. Michigan is a battle ground state so a very important election.

Web page for fraud alerts to anyone wanting it is [www.uslandrecords.com](http://www.uslandrecords.com). Must sign up with your email and this will alert a property owner that something is happening with their records.

Three new voting booth equipment machines have been selected by a committee, for precincts to choose from. Total bill would be \$55 million to cover the state and some of that expense will be borne by the local governments. We do have HAVA (the help America Vote Act) with \$30 million left the help defray the costs.

Could be 2 or 3 proposals on ballot in November and no ballot initiatives first time since 1963.

T Pirstill: In support of the Veterans Freedom Park dedication, the Clare County Transit will provide free transportation, as well as to your precinct to vote on any Election Day. In support of Pam, there are 16 townships, so attending all township meetings, with some of them being on the same day, is not possible. It's also important that you know your candidates.

M. Rottiers. Clare County Quilt Trail brochures. Take advantage of the map and go see the quilt blocks. To the board-Please vote on the use of the attorney for our organization. Board vote is yes.

17. Old Business. For the ceiling look into Led lighting. Hire contractors to plan our office remodel. Nothing done on the Transfer Station Metal problem.

18. New Business: DAV to buy the metal chairs and carts for \$100.00, as is. Motion to allow the DAV to purchase the chairs and carts for \$100.00 made by Irwin. Supported by Roland, Roll Call Vote: Irwin-yes, Roland-yes, Farwell-yes, Byl-yes, Yarhouse-excused. Motion Carried

Total cost to fix the Cemetery pole barn, inclusive, is \$1,165.00. Motion made to buy the metal necessary to reside the Pole Barn made by Farwell, seconded by Irwin. Roll Call Vote: Farwell-yes, Irwin-yes, Roland-yes, Byl-yes, Yarhouse-excused. Motion Carried

A motion to trim the trees at the parks at a cost of \$675.00, Cold Springs, West Beach and Peterson Park, was made by Irwin, seconded by Farwell. Roll Call Vote: Irwin-yes, Farwell-yes, Roland-yes, Byl-yes, Yarhouse-excused. Motion Carried

A Budfest Fireworks petition was requested to be approved with a motion by Irwin, supported by Roland, All ayes. Motion carried.

An FYI about a drain problem at the end of East St, with the existing culvert being too short and the soil erosion caused by it. An estimated cost of \$1,100.00 would be required to extend this culvert and level the area.

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

20. Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.