

Garfield Township  
Budget Board Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2023

Called to order at 6:36 pm by Supervisor Byl leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Board members present were Byl, Clayton, Lard, Roland & Yarhouse. Also in attendance was Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs.

**Agenda:** The meeting agenda was reviewed & a change was made on the date of the minutes from 12/22/22 to 12/19/22. Motion to accept agenda was made by Lard, supported by Clayton. All ayes, motion carried.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of December 19, 2022, was made by Lard and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

**Public Comment**

- Joe Stragea commented on the proposed ordinances and felt no need for these ordinances. He feels the fines imposed are excessive.
- LG Roberts stated that he usually comes here with a chip on his shoulder, but he is going to try not to do that this time. He feels that if in the past writing letters worked on mowing, then why not continue to keep doing that instead of an ordinance. He feels that neighbors need to help each other, does not want zoning or ordinances dictating what we should do with our own property.
- Darrel Runyon feels a \$500.00 is too excessive and hopes that the Board can take that into consideration. Let's just all help each other out.
- Roxanne Hadley agrees with everything that has been said. She called around to other Townships & spoke to a few of them on how they handle these situations. She also feels that the proposed \$500.00 fine is excessive.
- Deanna Carl stated that before she moved here, she lived downstate and between working & her health, she could not come to her property and properly maintain it. She did what she could, she is against this ordinance.

**Fire Department-Kevin Tubbs**

Kevin gave a "wish list" to the Board with items that he would like to budget in the future. He also had a list of items that need to be sold.

**Supervisor**

Byl reported that he had a zoom meeting with the DNR , and they have too many restrictions. He would like to move the Pop-up shop to the Township property in the parking lot behind the Depot. Geographically, it's a better place. Byl will meet with Jeff Best, on the best places on Township property, that the sculpture should go.

In 2001 Garfield Township adopted the Blight Ordinance. In 2015 the Board did a resolution to impose this ordinance to a Civil Infraction. This addition was recommended by our attorney, to clarify and protect the Township.

Roland asks Byl, based on the Blight Ordinance, who can write tickets? Byl reported it can be a code enforcement officer, Supervisor, or the Clare County Sheriff. Byl is willing to meet with anyone from the Township and answer their questions.

Clayton felt that, if the attorney is recommending this, then it is our fiduciary responsibly to follow through. Lard agreed.

Byl gave a handout from MTA "What Makes a Good Ordinance". These Ordinances were established over 20+ years ago. The weed ordinance has been in the books since 1941 but not enforced by our Township. This is only in subdivisions and any fines would be enforced by the judge and legal system.

Roland stated that Section 8 reads that the maximum fine is \$500.00 plus court costs.

Bly stated, "Let's just take out the \$500.00 fine".

Roland does not like the idea of someone coming on her property, measuring her lawn, and then cutting her lawn.

She is dead set against this weed ordinance, will vote NO on future ordinances.

Byl suggested we put the mow date deadline notice in the paper, maybe have July 1<sup>st</sup> as our deadline for mowing. Currently, we post a notice for the Cemetery clean-up which has worked in the past. Hire a company to cut it and put the cost plus 10% (admin fee) on their taxes.  
Clayton would like to see the weed Ordinance changed to 18" instead of 8".

Byl gave a copy of the budget to the Board to review, to discuss at the January 23, 2023, meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm was made by Lard and supported by Clayton.

Next meeting January 23, 2023, 5:30 pm Special public meeting for the Spark Grant / January 23, 2023, 6:30 pm.

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Supervisor – David Byl

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Clerk – Janet Clayton