

Garfield Township  
Budget Meeting Minutes  
April 10, 2023

Called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor David Byl, leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Board members present were Clayton, Lard, Roland & Yarhouse Also in attendance was Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs.

**Agenda:** The meeting agenda was reviewed. The motion to accept the agenda was made by Clayton, supported by Lard. All ayes, motion carried.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes March 27, 2023, Board Meeting, was made by Lard and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

**Clerk:** Clayton handed to the Board meeting schedule, wage schedule and resolutions for 2023-2024. She proposed possibly moving the meeting date to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, due to scheduling conflicts during the holidays. This was given to the Board for them to review before the fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Department:** Kevin handed out his 2023-2024 Budget and an updated 5-year plan for the fire department.

**Supervisors:** David Byl emailed the budget to each Board member & Kevin, for the April workshop. The Board wanted a guide so that they were able to look at each budget item. (Example: Township, cemetery, etc.) Clayton said she would email a guide with the breakdown on Wednesday 4/12/23.

**Public Comment:**

- Joe Stragea is against the weed & grass ordinance. Public Act 359 is from 1941. Updated information can be obtained from the State of Michigan website.
- Pat Oman feels the Township money can be better spent on other more important things going on in the Township.

**Old Business:** Grass Ordinance draft was given to the Board; some items were taken out of this ordinance that Byl felt the Board did not like when the original draft was handed out. Example: changing the fine from \$500.00 to \$75.00, moving the length to 12”.

- Yarhouse has many questions.
- Roland handed out the original ordinance to taxpayer and the consensus is that they do not want it. She feels it is an overreach of Township authority.
- Clayton felt a fine is needed with this ordinance. Complaints come from residents concerning this issue in the Township. The complaints are from taxpayers that want this ordinance.
- Byl as asked the Board several times for their input on this matter over the last few months. Feels as a Board we can work together and eliminate what we don't want and mold it to something to support the letters going to the taxpayers if there is a problem.
- Byl also has the issue of people buying property on tax foreclosures and never come to the property and take care of it.
- Lard is hearing that there are taxpayers that want this ordinance and ones that do not want it. He feels there is a need for this ordinance.

**New Business:** Byl has been in contact with Rick McNeilly about bringing in limestone to the transfer station around the containers not on asphalt. Rick is also working with the Friends of Garfield Township to do work at Cold Springs, cleaning up for new fencing. Rick has worked with the Township for quite some time and is very fair with his pricing.

Roland wondered if we should bid these jobs out. Lard looked online and said the State law is \$20,000 for bids.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Clayton, supported by Lard. All ayes, motion carried. The meeting adjourned 7:45pm.

Next Board meeting April 24, 2023.

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Supervisor – David Byl

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Clerk – Janet Clayton