

December 23, 2014

Garfield Township
Regular Board Meeting
December 23, 2014
7:00 p.m.

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisor Byl leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Byl, Yarhouse, Irwin, Roland and Rottiers. Also attending the meeting were Garfield Township Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs, County Commissioner Dale Majewski, Garfield Township Assessor Brad Beach, Blight Officer Rod Williams, Garfield Township Grant Committee Chairperson Jeanie Stewart and 9 citizens.

Motion by Yarhouse, seconded by Irwin, to approve minutes of the November 24, 2014 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Rottiers, seconded by Roland. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Tubbs reported 17 runs, 13 of which were medical, one down tree, one mutual aid, one illegal burn and one personal injury. He also reported a change of maintenance of the truck from Circle K to Apollo who has found multiple things that were neglected. He will be receiving a recommendation for maintenance after the first of the year. New officers appointed are as follows: Maintenance Director " Steve Irwin, Safety Officers " Ryan Dewey and Anthony Chedester, Medical Officer " Kevin Allen, Lieutenant " Shane Henry, Captain " S.J. Conroy and Assistant Chief " Mark Fouchey. He also reported that he will be making a trip to South Dakota to see the new fire engine from January 12 " 14, 2015. He also indicated a need for a Fire Department Secretary. He would like the position to be part-time and will request board approval for the job posting. He will prepare the job description and have it ready for the next board meeting. At the Fire Chiefs' meeting, discussion followed regarding the county restructuring the dive team. He will have an update in March. They are planning on getting a trailer to house the equipment. The township has the opportunity to take back a truck that was given to another township. The best approach that was the consensus was to take it back and try to sell it first or scrap it. He indicated that he needs approval for new cadet Amanda Tubbs, is ordering rugs for the fire hall and is in the process of revising the bylaws.

Motion by Rottiers, supported by Yarhouse, to approve new cadet Amanda Tubbs pending background check and physical. All ayes. Motion carried.

County Commissioner Dale Majewski gave a brief report.

There was no Road Commission report.

Blight Officer Rod Williams gave a report on the status of blight in the township.

Garfield Township Assessor Brad Beach reported that there were 37 Board of Review petitions. Many were homestead exemptions that were not completed at the county level. Discussion followed about printing our own tax bills. The cost to outsource will be determined.

There was no Sheriff's report.

Kim Irwin, Lake Firefighters Auxiliary President, reported in current activities of the auxiliary including the Winterfest scheduled for February 28, 2015.

Jeanie Stewart, Garfield Township Grant Committee Chairperson, reported that the committee is exploring grant possibilities the township might want to undertake. She just received the first draft of the five-year plan and will be reviewing the document which will need to include letters of support. One letter has been received from Senator Booher. The DNR is willing to enter into a partnership for 30-years and she has received the draft of the potential lease agreement. She indicated she will have that draft at the January meeting. One idea that has emerged is a small lending library. She has a donation of 75 books so far.

Chief Tubbs asked the Board to set a reserve on the rescue vehicle. Following discussion, the consensus was that it would be up to the Fire Chief to decide whether to sell or scrap the vehicle.

County Commissioner Dale Majewski brought up an issue regarding Consumers Energy not paying for the fire departments working at a site when needed. Discussion followed.

Joseph Stragea addressed the Board regarding concerns about the issue with blight and his property.

Byl reported that he met with Jackie Morgan regarding the USDA grant. The original paperwork is done and will close on the loan in January.

Rottiers talked to the Board about a possible workshop regarding hackers stealing credit card numbers. She will follow-up with Jerry Becker and provide details at the January meeting.

Byl reported that communication with the Clare County Road Commission has been good, that they have discussed repaving Rock Road, patching and sealing that will last about 3-4 years and he received a quote for 5 miles of graveling at \$15,000/mile.

Discussion followed about transfer station assessments of businesses, specifically local churches. Both churches in question will be billed for one assessment.

Discussion followed regarding new street lights being added at some intersections which are really dark. Byl will check on new lights for some intersections.

Under Old Business, the cost for the caps for the stone wall around the Depot came in at \$6.50 each plus shipping. Previously the Board had approved \$5.00 each. Need four pallets. Irwin will supply the appropriate saw to cut the caps. Motion by Rottiers, supported by Irwin, to approve the \$6.50 per cap plus shipping through Superior Concrete. All ayes. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Yarhouse, supported by Roland, to approve bills of \$69,776.16. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Irwin to adjourn. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.