

Garfield Township
Special Board Meeting-Budget
May 15th, 2017 at 6:30pm

Board members present were Byl, Yarhouse, Irwin, Roland and Farwell. Kevin Tubbs-Fire Chief. Also attending the meeting were 11 citizens.

1. The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with Supervisor Byl leading the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Approval of the regular Board meeting from May 8th, 2017. Motion by Yarhouse, supported by Farwell. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Preliminary Budget 2017-2018 changes were made reducing the road maintenance budget to \$80,000. The Fire Dept. budget wages were questioned and some changes were made. A discussion of liability and WC insurance necessities need to be included in the transfer station budget
4. Jeanie Stewart-Friends of Garfield Township Parks explained the ins and outs of the Trailhead Project and the associated grants. How they interrelate to each other and how expenses to the project should be paid and how the matching funds will be reimbursed back into the fund. The USDA Grant, which had a 12 month deadline, has been extended because of the delay in the issuance of the main MNRTF Grant. A resolution to accept the Grant is also necessary in the process. She further explained her main involvements and input with the project. She explained the caboose move. Great lakes railway has donated tracks and related items to make the tracks look authentic, when the caboose is moved to its final location. Rowe will be actively involved.
5. Public Comments:
 - Rick Tobin-Fire Dept. is extremely important to any township. Transfer station makes more money than the fire chief. Do you really think you could get somebody into the township to do what Kevin does. We are fortunate to have Kevin.
 - Tom Pirstill-The Trailhead project is the most involved project in this township that I have seen and all of the volunteer time involved with everyone is greatly appreciated. We can showcase the township, Lake (Station) and Clare County. Thanks to the board for all the hearing you do to make sure this is the right thing to do. He is willing to help with the plan implementation where needed..
 - Margaret Geyer-Two lots donated to the township. Kevin Tubbs does a super job. He deserved a raise
 - Leslie Walker-I know Kevin has his own business. Can't believe Kevin made less than the transfer station attendant.
 - Greg Butcher. Firefighters are on call 24/7.

6. Continuing with the Fire Dept. budget, a 25% raise for three officers should be enough. Kevin is the one carrying the responsibility. He does a lot of extra things he does not get paid for. He also needs to turn in mileage for any meetings he attends.

No other specific budget changes were discussed. Perhaps we should have quarterly budget workshops, especially with the Trailhead Grant. Decisions may need to be made on a daily basis during construction. Changes have already been made to the pavilion. Discussion about the downtown area between McKinnely and Lake Station ensued along the DNR leased land. Discussion about donations to the Trailhead ensued, like benches, tables, etc. Like the pavilion, which was changed from a square to a rectangle. Also, people wanting their donations personalized. Cannot personalize items on DNR land.

Trustees should get mileage and a meeting allowance for extra meetings. Extra meeting protocol was brought up. 18 hour notice is required unless an emergency. It's in the Open Meetings Act. (Meeting causing the discussion was the Salt Spreader breakdown emergency meeting)

Supervisor

Clerk