

Garfield Township
Board Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2023

Called to order at 6:31 pm by Supervisor David Byl, leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Board members present were Clayton, Roland & Yarhouse. Lard was absent. 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 Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2023, Board Meeting was made by Roland and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Clayton and supported by Roland. All ayes, motion carried.

County Commissioner - Marlene Housler reported:

- Sheriff's Department ordered 28 body cameras for \$163,000.00, a grand will pay for ½ of these cameras. The video footage will be kept off site.
- The Board of Commissioners had a meeting and voted on dates for 2024.
- The Clare County prosecutor received a grant to hire a criminal investigator. Marlene wanted to update us on the pending lawsuit with the Board of Commissioners (BOC) and the Prosecuting Attorney. On 12/1/23 there was mediation between the attorneys, in mediation it was proposed that the Chief & Assistant Attorneys would get a \$4,000 raise each and have the BOC pay the attorney fees. This proposal was voted down by the BOC. They are now going to court. The Lawsuit was over hiring someone full-time.

Coat Drive – Teri Mason

- The coat drive for 2022 was a great success, the 2023 took place on 12/9/23 & 12/10/23. The coat drive for 2023 was a huge success with the help from the Community and the Business Owners. Over 550 coats were collected and in 2 days, over 425 coats were given away. Well over ½ still had the tags on them. Any left-over coats for kids were given to the Farwell Schools for the kids in need. Any other coats were sent to Living Hope Church for their free clothing give away.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs reported:

- 11/18/23-12/18/23 there were 23 medical calls, 2 fires, 2 mutual aids, 1 down tree for a total of 28 for the month and 299 year to date.
- Kevin said 1 ½ years ago they took bids for redoing the bottom half of the metal siding. A contractor was chosen and \$\$ approved. The contractor has never started the project so now we will rebid this project and look for another contractor. The new doors are now in the front of the fire department, in the future the plan is to replace all the doors.
- Winterfest is planned for 2/24/2024. Due to the warmer weather, we have been experiencing, it may be in town. Kevin would like the Board's approval to close the streets from 7 am – 5 pm.
- The fire department had a structure fire on 12/1/23. Task foam was used, and it stopped the fire from spreading to make it a total loss. The fire inspector was impressed with the Garfield Township FD and how the structure was saved.
- Kevin & Byl looked at the financials and would like to be able to pay off the loan on the truck early.
- Kevin reported that the new doors have been installed on the front of the building at the fire department, but the trim was not put on because it would have to be ripped off when the new bottom siding was done. The Board voted to spend up to \$2,000.00 to trim out all the doors at the fire department. The heat loss is causing a concern.

Supervisor Notes – Dave Byl reported:

- The Board of Review (BOR) new member Ken Ebaugh was at the meeting along with Ralph Stewart, Bob Deming, David Byl and alternate S.J. Conroy. The meeting was almost 2 hours, dates were set for 2024.

- F65 Bi-Annual will be electronically filed, normally we have our CPS firm do this but with the new BS&A program, we were able to compile all the information needed. By doing this, the Township saved over \$2,000.00.
- The Road Commission invited David to a meeting/seminar on how money comes in to fix the roads. We have no money for fixing the roads and down the road will need a road millage. There are 16 Townships in Clare County and 5 of them have no road millages. Most townships have 1-2 mills for the roads. The State only has money to fix bridges.
- Dave spoke to another Township, and they had the money to buy a new fire truck and now they are on a 4-year waiting list.

Blight Report – Dave Byl reported:

- There was a court case for Carmen Eichhorn on Rock Rd.
- Two barns have been torn down on US 10, Rick McNeilly did the work.

General Comment: There were no general comments.

Old Business: There is no old business.

New Business: Ordinances

- Clayton wants to change our Pension administrator from Burnham & Flowers to Birchmeier & Associates in 2024. It will still be with John Hancock; the new company will have representation for our employees. Clayton made a motion to make the change and it was supported by Roland. All ayes, motion carried.
- There is an issue with a property for Solid Waste. It was discovered that a resident removed a trailer from his property and the fee was not removed. Yarhouse and Roland felt that if the resident can prove when the trailer was sold, a refund could be issued. They will see if they can find the information. It was decided to put this on the agenda in January under old business. Yarhouse made a motion to move money from Savings to pay the bills in December & transfer \$50,000.00 from savings to checking. Clayton supported the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Approval of Bills: A motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$68,705.72 was made by Clayton and supported by Yarhouse. All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment: Public comment was held.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2024, at 6:30pm.

Supervisor – David Byl

Clerk – Janet Clayton