

December 21, 2015

Garfield Township
Regular Board Meeting
December 21, 2015
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, Farwell, Irwin, Yarhouse and Roland. Also attending the meeting were Garfield Township Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs, Garfield Township Blight Officer Rod Williams, Garfield Township Assessor Brad Beach, Garfield Firefighters Auxiliary President Betty Tessman, County Commissioner Dale Majewski, and several citizens.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2015 meeting was made by Yarhouse, supported by Irwin with one correction for the name of Pohl's Tree farm top to Pohl's Tree Farm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Farwell, seconded by Roland, to accept the Treasurer's Report. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Tubbs reported 13 runs, 10 of which were medical, 1 mutual aid, 1 personal injury and one structure fire. He reported that the new Spartan Fire Truck to be finished on December 22, 2015 and after the pin striping is done in Colorado, the truck will be shipped. Should be here during the first two weeks of January.

He also asked the board's opinion on the sale of the 1994 Dodge Pick-up with the plow attached. It was the consensus of the Board to get sealed bids on the truck/plow with the reserve of \$3,000. to be opened at January meeting. Notices will be placed on public social media as well as in the local newspapers.

County Commissioner Dale Majewski distributed the Commissioners Report and told all present Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Blight Officer Rod Williams reported that we now have a new Civil Infraction Ordinance; which will save the township money in court costs; and that the one case still pending with more court involvement, has been dismissed because the owners are coming into compliance.

There is still an issue on Maple Rd where the occupant skipped town while we were in court, and we now must deal with the owner of the property,

Rod now has access to the Secretary Of State web site and can get much needed information, as necessary, for proper identification.

He spoke about the Dangerous Building Ordinance and its meaning, like fire /wind damaged buildings, an abandoned structure, causing a safety hazard. A trustee questioned the 180 day time window in item 10, What if I had an unoccupied building for 5 years and am paying the taxes. Whose business is it that I'm not living there. If we get into a demolition situation, what about lead paint/asbestos/etc.

Explanation; It's not the time limitation, It is the unsafe structures that are out of building codes that are of concern, not sound buildings. These are valid questions we need to check out, to see what we can do as far as testing, etc. This ordinance gives our township the authority to deal with our own township problems, also saving court costs. Grants are also available. Rod will check with the attorney on the time limitation. Action on this ordinance is tabled until the next board meeting.

There was no Sheriff's report.

Under Public Participation, Garfield Firefighters€™ Auxiliary President Betty Tessman had a question about a power pole for Winter Fest, (answer was nay). and she reported on the Winter Fest progress.

Greg Richard- Question on the Blight Ordinance effects on a property with a tax delinquency.

Supervisor Byl reported the following:

- Reported on a joint meeting with the Clare County Prosecutor, Michelle Ambrozaitias and the Garfield Supervisor, Blight Officer, Building Inspector, County Commissioner, and the Health Dept. about our blight cases that have had no follow-up. They have only been filed in the prosecutor€™s files without being acted upon. All departments will now be cc€™d for action, if none known, the cases will go through the proper channels up to the prosecutor where action will be taken.

The Dangerous Building Ordinance was discussed and more information requested. Decision tabled until the January Meeting

Patty Reuter told about the installation of the Quilt Block (Traditional Folk Art) on the Depot wall named €œRail Road Crossing.€ The Depot will become a part of the Clare Community Arts Council Quilt Block Trail Tour.

The Fire Insurance Withholding Program was discussed and concerns addressed. A motion to approve the program was made by Farwell, seconded by Irwin. Roll Call Vote: Farwell;-yes; Irwin-yes; Yarhouse-yes; Byl-yes, Roland-no. Motion Carried.

An amendment to increase the budget by \$10,000 for account 101-806-956-000 for the Depot was approved after a motion by Irwin and a second by Farwell. All ayes, Motion carried.

Public Comments: L S Book

1. If property is resubmitted because of non-compliance, does it go start back at the beginning?
(No)
2nd notice from the Health Dept.
2. How long after the Prosecutor€™s letter does something happen? Don€™t know.
3. Barking Dogs disturbing the peace. Noise Ordinance, any code? No not in our township.

Motion by Robin, supported by Irwin to approve bills totaling \$54,359.98. All ayes. Motion carried.

Request from Roland that bills be made available by the 2nd Monday of the month. And the agenda be available earlier also. Bills are always available but no checks are written until just before the board meeting.

Motion by adjourn by Irwin. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.