

February 23, 2015

Garfield Township
Regular Board Meeting
February 23, 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, Yarhouse, Irwin and Roland. Rottiers was excused. Also attending the meeting were Garfield Township Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs, County Commissioner Dale Majewski, Blight Officer Rod Williams, Garfield Township Grant Committee Chairperson Jeanie Stewart, Lake Firefighters Auxiliary Chairperson Betty Tessman and 12 citizens.

Motion by Irwin, seconded by Yarhouse, to approve minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Fire Chief Tubbs reported 13 runs, 9 of which were medical, 2 accident and 2 mutual aid. He asked for approval of a new cadet, Steven Conroy. He also asked for approval for our Fire Department to be part of the 911 Program that addresses many of the communication problems. There is money in the budget to pay for the system. There are 6 departments buying into the program, with the exception of Harrison. Total cost of the program is \$4,865.00 with our 1/6 of the cost at \$973.00. Could be less if Harrison decides to enter into the 911 Program. Program will be monitored by Central Dispatch. All Firefighters will be able to respond through the program and the departments will know who is available. The additional cost for the phones is \$10.00 per line per year per firefighter.

The slippery floor in the Fire Station was discussed. Spent \$10,000 on an Anti-Slip Floor application by a contractor, but the floor is still dangerously slippery because of the snow problems. The contractor says they will resurface the area for \$3,195.00. The board requested to see a copy of the contract as to what was stated about the first application.

Three firefighters are going to take the Medical First Responders class, Jasmine Fair, Nathan McKinsey and Ryan Dewey. This past weekend we participated in a water rescue training with other departments.

He also updated details of several changes to the new fire truck.

- Better tires to the rear of the truck
- More reflectors
- Rear and side backup cameras
- Air horn to the pump handle
- Directional arrows
- Removed the Drop Tank-have 3 at the hall
- Relocated some ladders
- Other changes which resulted in a credit of \$578.00.

He reminded everyone that the Winterfest is scheduled for February 28, 2015. He also asked for Board approval for new cadet Steven Conroy, pending physical and background check. An approval of Steven Conroy as a cadet was not necessary, but all agreed.

County Commissioner Dale Majewski gave a brief report. He noted four items.

- A meeting for veterans with the VA medical Center and the Clare VA Clinic to share information about VA services and care.
- What to do with the vacated Health Department Building.
- The security arrangements installed at the County Court House in the Court€™s area of the building.
- Matt Dodson is the new Animal Control Officer.

Road Commission report was given by Irwin. There is a culvert on S. Shore Dr. near intersection of Franklin that needs to be protected by a guard rail.

Blight Officer Rod Williams reported on the following

- He had a default judgment on #12 to comply;
- #15 is pending
- #16 is in restart because the owner has deceased and significant other is in charge
- #23 signed a warrant last month-postponed until March 27, 2015; they are trying to comply.
- Also did a drive-by for a new one.

There was no Assessor€™s report.

There was no Sheriff€™s report.

Betty Tessman, Lake Firefighters Auxiliary President, reported she has a new applicant, JackLyn Sheddick, for the Auxiliary. Need more and still getting donations for Winterfest. She challenged the area fire departments to a tug-of-war on the ice for Winterfest. She also indicated the Auxiliary will participate in the St. Patrick€™s Day parade, is having a bake sale at Jay€™s on March 7, 2015 and is ordering eggs for the Easter egg hunt to be held on March 28, 2015.

Jeanie Stewart, Garfield Township Grant Committee Chairperson, reported on the DNR Lease to be voted on tonight regarding property along the rail trail. If lease is approved then we can start to talk about the Five Year Plan. A copy of the draft of the Five Year Plan was provided to the Board with a request that the Board go through the draft. The Lease would become effective on March 1, 2015. We are moving forward.

Public Comments included Jerry Carpenter who voiced his concerns about the rights of citizens in the township who have blight conditions on their properties and the means by which the township is pursuing them. He stated that the township is not using the Blight Ordinance but a Nuisance Law and he has a lawyer and has paid the retainer fee and will sue the township and the Supervisor if things do not change.

Bill Scheall thanked the board for the new tires on the township truck.

Mrs. Jeffery commended the board for their perseverance in eliminating some of the blight problems in the township. Rod Williams indicated that he is aware of a Dangerous Building Ordinance that has been drafted which accounts for all of the procedures necessary to finally foreclose or raze a building indicating that you may never recover the monies necessary to have the problem corrected. But you need to look at the surrounding property values that will increase because the blighted property no longer exists except as vacant land.

Correspondence since the last meeting included a letter from the Road Commission regarding details of township mileage and population, expenditures and contributions

Michigan Chloride Sales have increased their cost by 25% of a penny for brining. Letter has three dates to consider. (North and South Hemlock Road must be done.) One resident has a problem with the brining. Three dates are set for the brining. Refund check from Michigan Par Plan has been received and was the correct amount. Due to close in August of the fire truck loan, the rate could possibly go down a quarter percent. First payment would be due 6 months after closing date probably February or March 2016. Liberty Mutual, our Workman€™s Comp carrier, sent our renewal. We have been taken off the risk category; consequently our \$3,000 surcharge will be gone making payments lower.

Supervisor reported that he has been granted a scholarship by Consumers Energy to attend a two day seminar at Crystal Mountain regarding how to get things done for the township. The Waste Management bills have finally been corrected, budget is on target. The Fire Department is our biggest insurance liability. There will be an election in May which was not planned for in the current budget, so we will be going over our election budget.

Old Business: Road Graveling Plan basically the county has been contacted which Irwin will handle.

The Board set a date of April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for Jerry Becker to hold the workshop for the community.

New Business:

- Ralph Stewart for was nominated as an Alternate Review Board Member. Motion by Irwin, supported by Roland. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- DNR 30-year Lease: No increased liability for being in the lease per our attorney. Motion by Byl to approve the lease, support by Irwin. Roll Call vote: Byl-yes, Irwin-yes, Roland -no, Yarhouse-yes, Rottiers-excused.
- Transfer Station Schedule was discussed regarding extending the Wednesday open schedule for the Transfer Station or all year. Cost would be about \$800.00 per month. Many taxpayers would like to see it open more on Wednesdays. Suggestion was made to survey the public about the Wednesday opening. It will also be posted on the board at the transfer station.

Motion by Irwin, supported by Yarhouse to approve Bills and Wages for January totaling \$38,866.82. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Irwin to adjourn. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.