

Garfield Township
Special Board Meeting Minutes
February 5th, 2020 7:00pm

The meeting opened at 7:00pm by Supervisor Byl leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Byl, Roland, Farwell, Irwin and Yarhouse. Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs.

Agenda: The meeting agenda for the February 5th, 2020 meeting were approved after moving the Public Comment Section to later in the meeting. Motion to approve the agenda made by Irwin. Supported by Roland. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Old Business: Pla-Land Properties. There were 2 properties in Pla-land that did not sell at the Land Auction that were being deeded to the township. A letter was received from the Clare County Treasurer that the two properties not sold at the second round of land auctions would be deeded to the township, which is the state law. The time to refuse them had ended, but the deed was not recorded yet. Property ID's are 013-350-137-00 and 013-350-138-00. After a lengthy discussion that we are not in the real estate business and the loss of tax dollars, the supervisor requested a motion be made to reject the properties. Roland made the motion seconded by Yarhouse. Roll Call Vote: Roland-yes, Yarhouse-yes, Irwin-yes, Byl-no, Farwell-no. Motion to reject the properties carried.

New Business: Kevin Tubbs and the Fire Department software. Irwin received a phone call and called Byl with concerns about late fire reports to Michigan State because the software was not being used. Irwin received emails of this and we are two years in arrears for these reports, resulting in noncompliance which could result in required loss of fire fighter classes paid for by the state. He demanded the presence of two firefighters to state these reports are not being submitted. The software has many functions, including payroll, which is being done by the Clerk's office. He stated that the Fire Chief is a good chief, but he falls short in other areas, especially timeliness of the reports. Others in the department can do these reports, but not at an additional hourly cost to the township, as it is the responsibility of the chief. My job is to make sure money being spent is the way it should be spent.

Supervisor Byl stated he has been Supervisor for seven years and the department is in its best shape ever. He has not received anything from the state about late I also worked with the Transfer Station to keep costs under control. We, as a board should not be micromanaging the Fire Department or its Budget, which never overruns. He received an email at 5:11pm today in support of the Fire Chief. He is proud of our Fire Department. The software in that department is not the only software not being utilized as it should. No fire fighters have approached him about any concerns. Does not appreciate being nagged about an employee. Communicate with the person of concern and move on, go forward!

Roland requested an accountability report at the Board Meetings. Kevin agreed.

Is there a way to know these reports are accepted? Yes there is.

The software concerned has many other functions, should we be using it for payroll, for instance? Clerk prefers to keep the entire payroll function for all areas in the township office.

Kevin Tubbs spoke on his behalf and the reports in question. There may be delays for various reasons in uploading the reports. He has been on the Fire Department for 20 years, 12 as chief. Irwin will not meet with me. He has disrespectful comments during Board meetings. 12 years of harassment from Irwin. My job is to protect citizens. He read several letters of commendation and appreciation.

Public Comment

Kyle Campbell: Kevin is the best man I've ever met. Get along because we can have an adult conversation. Get back to talking to each other.

Tom Radewahn: Was the Supervisor of a Western Township of Saginaw. He lives on S Shore. He evaluated and worked with the Fire Chief. The Fire Department is Kevin's ultimate priority. He is reliable and well respected. He follows policies and procedures. Communication resolves problems.

Bill Campbell: Owned property since 1956 and my wife since 1948. 4 years ago, I had a construction project going on and asked my contractor to consult with Kevin as to the date and time he would be here. Contractor tore the power off a power pole and onto my roof, starting a fire. Had Kevin not been aware, I could have lost my home.

Becky Gott: I was with Kevin when he became chief. He was the fire fighter's choice for Fire Chief against Irwin and Conway. Kevin will drop anything for this community. Fire fighter wanted Kevin to be chief. I have a lot of respect for Kevin.

Patrick Keenen: from Eight Point Lake has a lot of respect for our Fire Chief.

George Flagherr: Nottawa Sherman Ass't Chief. Fire reports, Emergency Reports, Fire Tools. There are many program upload problems, sometimes uploads work, sometimes they don't. Kevin is a good chief.

Bill Schaeff. You all know where I stand. Communicate

Chris Danvelt; Harrison Chief has worked on many Boards. I'm on Fire Department to the north, sometimes we are not compliant because the uploading doesn't always work. Kevin is highly respected.

Joe Straega; Shouldn't have come to this. Lots of dealings. If there is a choice between Kevin and the Board?? "Don't poke the bear"

Tamika Campbell: I have one year as a fire fighter. I have entered reports. Rick approved them, Sometimes reports are lost/behind. But we are caught up. I did not get paid for inputting reports. Kevin is great.

Jim Chapman Clare Fire Chief: Get behind this man and stay there. In reporting to the state, the system is down a lot. If reports are not done, then we don't get classes paid for. He is innovative. He asked for a 5" inch fire hose, which is used on fire hydrants. None in your community. But Kevin found uses and also helps in mutual aid where there are hydrants.

Jerry Becker: Homeland Security. Been a fire fighter for many years. Michigan State holds your feet to the fire. All departments need to be in compliance, and many are behind. Board needs to know what's going on. Imperative. I asked if supervisor can be notified from the state. New Smoke System training for fire fighters going on now. State changes are coming faster than we can keep up. Support Kevin.

Gay Messier: I've known Kevin and his parents for many years, since he was a little boy. Kevin supports ours and other townships as well. Things get heated and out of hand, it's easily done.

Board FYI: Supervisor may need support at the February or March meeting a project being worked, but unable to share information about, at this time

David Byl, Supervisor

Joan E Farwell, Clerk