

**Garfield Township**  
**Special Board Workshop Minutes**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 6:00pm**

**1. The meeting** opened at ~~7:00pm~~ 6:00pm by Supervisor Byl leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Byl, Farwell and Irwin and Roland, Yarhouse arrived at 6:10pm, also attending was Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs and Bill Scheall, Township Maintenance Foreman.

**2. Agenda:** The workshop agenda for the January 17, 2018 was reviewed and a date change for the minutes to be approved was made. Motion to approve the agenda made by Irwin. Supported by Farwell. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the regular board meeting of December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 were reviewed and a motion was made by Irwin to approve, supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried.

**4. The purpose** of the Budget Workshop and the worksheets presented, were explained by Byl.

**5. Discussions**

- The Sheriff Dept. has been placed on notice to discontinue our contract. We still receive coverage through the normal operations of the Sheriff Dept. and the Michigan State Police. Perhaps a special assessment would be in order. We need to be cognizant that we also have a special assessment for the fire truck. Timing is important.
- Revenues were discussed at great length to be sure that our revenues cover our expenses. The next few months will be watched carefully.
- At the Transfer Station, scrap metal revenue is helping cover some tire disposal expense. Furniture and building material disposal is very expensive, like \$500.00 per canister. Perhaps Fair Salvage could bid. There are many problems with our current contractor. Is there any early out wording in the contract? The next contract with a waste removal company will be reviewed by our attorney for obscure wording. Bill not available at transfer station after April.

**6. Fire Chief:** Mark Fouchey will be stepping down as Asst Fire Chief. Wants to remain on Dept. as a driver/operator.

- Fire Cadet program comprising of 16-17 year olds, could be replaced by Fire Explorers 14-23 years of age. The insurance for this program is being covered by the Boy Scouts.
- There are grants available to buy new air packs, so Evart, Hersey and Garfield Fire Depts. are going together to submit a grant application.
- Requesting a separate cell phone or tablet for fire business/calls, instead of the township paying for half of my personal cell phone. This will privatize all of my personal business.
- The 13 years old American LaFrance Squad, used to haul equipment. Parts are hard to get. Would like to sell it and replace it with 2 pickups with quad cabs. Should be able to ask \$95,000 and get at least \$65,000/\$70,000. They will carry 5 guys and the equipment can go in the box. Then give the DNR truck back.

7. **Transfer Station** July 4<sup>th</sup> is on a Wednesday so Bill would like to close it and open it on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. The township is looking into providing letters or cards to disabled residents unable to take their trash to the Transfer Station. This is also being considered for renters, in a 6 month renewable timeframe.
8. **Lake Senior Center** The Clare County voted to close the Senior Center due to the condition of the building.
9. **Brining was discussed.** It is a cost to the whole township, but only affects gravel roads. Maybe we should only brine 2 times instead of 3.
10. **Public Comment** None
11. **Adjourn.** Motion to adjourn was made by Irwin, supported by Farwell. All Ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

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*David Byl, Supervisor*

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*Joan E Farwell, Clerk*