

**Garfield Township
Special Millage Meeting Minutes
July 17th, 2019**

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

Byl explained that this is not a meeting to raise taxes but rather to get suggestion, ideas from property owners as to what they want/need for our township.

Road Patrol: Discovery Team leader gave a short recap of the costs/millage for one or two deputies. A resident from 8 Point Lake said there is no crime over there. Another stated he had 2 kayaks stolen. Another stated drug dealers are on Partridge, etc. Crooked Lake residents have had some crime problems. Undersheriff said the township reports show an average of 4 incidents per day. Lots of variables. Feels one deputy would be enough for our township. We are not paying for what a deputy is always doing, but for what they Can Do. Your Fire Department is great at keeping the township covered in emergencies of all kinds. He explained how the Sheriff Department covers-county wide. The township could have a vehicle drive around-observing.

A resident stated everyone should keep an open mind on what the township needs. Roads-Fire-Patrol. Must prioritize.

Roads: Township pays for brining three times a year. Why is there never a weigh master in our Township. These heavy trucks, like logging-are destroying our roads. The Road Commission has a 50/50 match for black- topped roads and for gravel, up to a certain amount. Most people are not satisfied with job the Road Commission does. We try to fix the worst roads with the biggest impact on the residents. Most attendees were concerned about the current issues plaguing the Road Commission and to wait and see what happens. One stated we need to invest in our infrastructure or we go backwards. Does everyone vote on this or just the board?

Fire: The Fire Chief spoke on handling 300+ various calls a year. 70% of all fire departments are volunteers, most over the age of 50. Being able to escape from a fire has dropped from 17 minutes to only 4minutes! He explained the equipment wanted/needed, Air Packs, Jaws of Life, compressor and Pagers. Very expensive. A Class 1 & 2 fire fighter is trained after attending classes twice a week and on weekends for 8 months, each. A Medical officer class is 6 weeks, same weekly commitment. CPR class, Weather Spotters, etc. Fire Fighters must be dedicated! Looking into Grants. What about the reserve money? The new equipment would deplete the reserve. What about having a year or so Special assessment, Can that be done? Could you charge for fire/misc. calls? Non-property owners assisted by fire department are charged. Metal roofs have created an oven effect, causing more danger.

Attendees were in strong support of our fire fighters. Get them the equipment they need, especially the Air Packs, ours are almost 20 years old. Keep them as safe as possible.

Byl-Letters to all property owners were sent out with the Winter Taxes asking for ideas and suggestions. We received one reply-Today.

We are working on grants. Our last road job, Maple Grove, was our cost \$40,000-50/50, split with the Road Commission.

The Transfer Station is doing well. Offered more services, i.e. tire and scrap metal recycling. Trash haulers are only picking up filled canisters. Budget meeting did not increase the Transfer Station or the Fire Department budget.

Question: If we want to do something, can we start now? New budget year. Can't vote on it yet.

Township needs to up-grade parks. What about all the unsightly signs on the corner by Post office? Need a street light at Beach and Lake Station by the park. Fix street sign that has Garfield misspelled -Garfield at School St.

Those in attendance were reminded that whatever money they wanted to use for road patrol, roads or fire equipment, residents must play an active role in citizen's initiative or choose a referendum, because future boards, once they have the money can use it anywhere they want to unless it is specifically stated.

Note: Referendum allows the people to state their opinion on laws that have been enacted by the legislature, and the initiative allows people to propose their own laws.

David Byl, Supervisor

Joan E. Farwell, Clerk