

**Garfield Township
Unapproved Regular Board Meeting
January 25, 2016 7:00pm**

1. The meeting opened at 7:00pm by 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 Fire Fighters Auxiliary President Betty Tessman, Clare County Dale Majewski, and several citizens.
2. Motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2015 meeting was made by Irwin, and supported by Roland with one correction to change the name Book to Holcomb. All ayes. Motion carried
3. Treasurer's report was approved after a motion by Roland, seconded by Farwell. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. Fire Chief Kevin Tubbs reported 37 runs, 4-downed power lines, 1-miscellaneous fire, 11-trees downed, 2-stand-bys, 19-medical. 2015 had a total of 284 runs. 13 runs YTD in 2016. Jason Miller stepped down from Dept. He reported no bids were received for the Dodge pickup truck. The notice will be placed in the paper again. Annual awards given to various fire fighters in 2015. The Agility Test was a tie between Joe Swanson and Rick Gott; Officer of the Year was Anthony Chedester, Amanda Tubbs was Cadet of the Year, Fire Fighter of the year was awarded to Joe Swanson. The new Fire Truck closing will be accomplished on Thursday, the 28th. On the back door of the Truck a notification that additional equipment was donated by the Crooked Lake Improvement Association and the Eight Point Lake Association.
5. Clare County Commissioner Dale Majewski had the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting. A present-ation by I T Right on what they could to handle some of the IT programs for the commissioners. He also reported still an opening in the Clare County Treasurers office. A Fraud Alert is being offered by the County so that if a record is requested on your property, you will be notified. The Building Department has set up a sliding penalty scale for anyone not obtaining a permit for any construction needs.
6. Blight Officer Rod Williams talked about Section 2 under definitions and Sec10 in the Damaged Building Ordinance. The 180 day vacant notice is to provide for 'due process' which would hopefully correct delayed mail problems. He is still working on the List for consideration of the Damaged Building Ordinance.
7. The Sheriff's Report was given by Deputy Aaron Mitler. He reported there was nothing major—
2-B&E's in Garfield; a handful of car accidents; 1-larceny, 1-weapons, 14-traffic stops and 2-drug arrests for the month. Looking good for township.

8. Public Participation;

a. Betty Tessman Fire Fighter Auxiliary President spoke about the up-coming Winter-fest Event on February 27, 2016 and the meeting planned for February 7th at 10:00am at the Township Hall.

b. Thomas Winarski, candidate for State Representative shared his qualifications for public office.

c. Several citizens approached the Board, (irate), about a Zoning rumor. They had been told by various sources, that the Board was trying to pass a zoning ordinance. Wanted the Supervisor and Blight Officer to resign. They accused the board of taking away their rights, their property, trespassing, can't make an auto repair living on own property, spending the tax payers money, etc. Totally opposed to zoning. People don't want it!! They are going to hire a Zoning attorney.

9. Supervisors notes: Phone system is up and running. Alarm system needs to be incorporated in the system. Assessment notices will be out soon with a newsletter regarding the Civil Infraction and other items the board might like to include. The Christmas lights at the Depot were purchased at 75% off..

10. Old Business: Dangerous Building Ordinance---The four letter word (zone) spoken here has never come out of board's mouth. Blight was terrible in the township. An attorney was engaged to review the ordinance. People have received bad information. I want to protect everyone's property investments as well as being able to have some good sellable properties for the community when people need to move. These are buildings in bad repair from fire, wind damage, flooding or whatever, causing structural damage, etc. to the building, which may cause a public safety and health hazard. Some have been vacant for years. Rod has been a consummate professional and has developed plans which gives the power to decide what to do with these buildings back to the township instead of the engaging the court system. We can help ourselves and there are Grants available to improve the township. Many communities are using this ordinance with great success.

Robin Yarhouse explained that this is **not** a zoning ordinance. The board does **not** want zoning. The public has been misinformed. Certain situations need to be taken care of in our community, because they are a dangerous situation waiting to happen. We will listen to everybody.

Mrs. Espinosa; ??Where is the control for whose building is considered dangerous. etc. Answer: The board as a whole must agree on the list of properties that need to be acted upon.

Several meetings have been discussing this ordinance. There is a list of 50 vacant buildings. The worst dilapidated buildings are being considered. Rod will talk to the owners to explain what needs to be done to bring the building up to code. What can be done to improve the situation.

Roland: Page 4. Lawns, trees, shrubs? Number 10. House unoccupied for 180 days? Didn't call township. House isn't for sale—etc. Why is it the taxpayers problem to notify the township? Too restricting! Needs to be studied more.

Irwin: I like the concept, but in looking deeper into it, there are some items that need to be thought out more.

Several interruptions from the citizens occurred. One of which was stated, who makes the decisions and the result of a board should be 5 out of 5, not majority rules. People should just go to neighbors about the building to see what they feel about the condition, if they don't want to do anything about it, then leave it alone.

Consensus of board is to table the ordinance until the next meeting.

11. No new business.

12. Public comments. Several concerned citizens again stated their same zoning thoughts. Bill Schaell, Township Maintenance Supervisor, stated how the township has helped several citizens, some of which are in attendance tonight. Another citizen also agreed with the assistance provided on Bluff Lake and how much the board has helped. (But it takes time and several procedures must be followed. It can't happen overnight).

13. Approval of bills. A question from Roland about the invoice date on one of the bills. It was a bill that had never arrived when it should have. Motion to approve all bills was made by Irwin. Supported by Yarhouse. All ayes. Motion carried.

14. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.