

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 10, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Garfield Township Hall
1138 West Erickson Road, Linwood MI 48634

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by James Dubay the Supervisor at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call: Supervisor-James Dubay, Clerk-Kimberly Day, Treasurer-Betty Monsion, Trustee-Gerald Rivard and Trustee-Paul Niemiec were present.

The Pledge was said in unison. Public attendance was twenty-seven.

Minutes from the November 12, 2012 regular meeting were presented. Motion made by Betty Monsion/Gerald Rivard to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was presented. Motion made by Gerald Rivard/Paul Niemiec to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Bills presented. See attached. Motion made by Gerald Rivard/James Dubay to pay the bills. Motion carried.

Public Comment: James Dubay made a statement before he opened public comment. All candidates for all open positions at Fire Department have been submitted to the township board for consideration. Members of the Fire Department and public have submitted in writing who they would like to see appointed to the open positions. These will not be read out loud, but they are public information, and anyone who would like a copy of them please pick up a Freedom of Information form after the meeting.

Anthony Holstine asked the township Board if they were going to look at the recommendations that were submitted. He does not know how the Township Board can make a decision without input from the Fire Department members. He gave a speech on leadership, and had input on both candidates seeking the Assistant Fire Chief position. He asked the Township Board to take into consideration all information given before we make a decision.

Diane Heritier would like Lee Heritier to stay on as Assistant Fire Chief. He has lived here for 36 years and has been on the Fire Department for 9 years. She gave a detailed background of Lee Heritier. No matter what Lee is doing he stops everything to go on runs. Lee wants to move ahead with the times, not stay in the past. He wants to do good things for the Fire Department and the Community.

Karen Snyder would like to thank the Fire Department for all they do. You want to see that friendly familiar face when they come to your rescue. It was such a relief to see Lee Heritier; when she had to call for help when her husband needed it. Lee Heritier also volunteered to ride in the ambulance with her husband. The F.O.R.C.E. committee was a great thing for the community. Lee Heritier gave great detailed reports to the Township Board.

Kathy Silvernale; Lee Heritier and his wife Diane were very dear friends, until the topless bar issue arose. Then Lee Heritier made a comment after a Township Board meeting that if Kathy Silvernale or Renee Kurowski needed anything the Fire Department would not come. Last month her husband passed away. She had to call 911; she informed them not to send Garfield Fire Department she was on her way to Midland and Larkin Fire Department met her. The issues that were brought on at the Fire Department have been because of Lee Heritier. The comments that Lee Heritier made on an interview with TV12 news (that his whole Department was going to quit) over the topless bar issue. It is time for a change.

Becky Hoffman believes that Lee Heritier is doing a good job as Assistant Fire Chief. She feels that the Township Board needs to hear from the Fire Department on who they want as Assistant Fire Chief. An Assistant Fire Chief should be available to go on runs. There have been 136 runs in 2012 and Lee Heritier has been on 96 runs and Dan Beyersdorf has been on 15 runs.

Linda Bodrie supports Lee Heritier for Assistant Fire Chief. There was a terrible accident on Garfield Road and the Fire Department was there. Please consider Lee Heritier for Assistant Fire Chief.

Lenore LaPan from her personal experience with the Fire Department, back in the day she use to pray for Wayne DeHate to show up now she prays for Lee Heritier to show up. It is great to see a face you know.

Lee Heritier responded to Kathy Silvernale's comment she is just mad that I didn't sign the topless petition. The TV12 interview was highly edited. And he never said that Garfield Fire Department would not show up.

Sandy Joles; Lee Heritier does put a lot of time in the Fire Department. She is aware that a lot of guys on the department are not speaking with each other. We need a neutral person who can unite the Fire Department again.

Steve Schumacher; Lee Heritier has been on 95% of the runs, he closes his business down to go on runs. He has led the department to many great things like, events at Crump Days, helicopter, fundraiser. He is friends with Lee Heritier and Dan Beyersdorf. He feels safe with Lee Heritier as Assistant Fire Chief; he feels that board members have a grudge against Lee Heritier. Lee Heriter has been on 8 runs all by himself this past year. Let the numbers speak for themselves.

Connie Fantozzi she has seen Lee Heritier and Steve Schumacher in acting and how fast they move. They need to keep doing what they are doing. She has dealt with firefighters and ambulance personal for many years. She would like to see Lee Heritier at her house if anything happened.

Sherry Protasiewicz agrees with Sandy Joles it is time to make a change.

Len Gorgol a christen god loves everyone, he shows himself by what he does not one of us in more moral than the other we all need a god.

Kathy Niemiec why is this so political with putting a sign in Crump about the Assistant Fire Chief position. We need a change the Fire Department is in a rut. The voters voted for a change in the Township Trustees, now its time for a change at the Fire Department.

Gail Hahl submitted a letter to the Township Board for future agenda items. Lee Heritier is focused and organized and he needs to continue what he is doing. At 5:00 a.m. it is nice to see a familiar face on scene. We are in need of some new people on the department. Lee Heritier is always pushing to make higher standards. What has happened with the fundraiser money she donated/collected \$400.00 herself.

Jeanine Weddel-Koste she has an adult foster care on Garfield Road. Lee Heritier is always the first one on the scene and the last one to leave.

Renee Kurowski has to support Kathy Silvernale's comment. This is not about the topless bar issue; everyone is entitled to their opinion. No one should be bullied especially at Township meetings.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: James Dubay commented on the fundraiser money that they can spend it however they want to. As the supervisor he does not care how they spend it. Several comments from the public on fundraiser money, no one went to podium just lots of talking from where they sat.

Gerald Rivard had to resign from the Fire Department before taking the oath of office; this is the law. He submitted his resignation in writing to Kimberly Day. Motion made by Betty Monsion/Paul Niemiec to reinstate Gerald Rivard to the Fire Department. Motion carried.

Motion made by Kimberly Day/Paul Niemiec to appoint Gerald Rivard to the Northern Bay Ambulance Board. Motion carried.

Motion made by Betty Monsion/Gerald Rivard to appoint Paul Niemiec to the Planning Commission Board. Motion carried.

Motion made by Kimberly Day/Paul Niemiec to appoint Betty Monsion as a liaison to the Fire Department. Motion carried.

Planning Commission: Bruce Bodrie and Paul Niemiec are the only people on the Planning Commission. James Dubay stated he had five applicants Len Gorgol, Kathy Silvernale, William Pelton, Kathy Niemiec, and Michelle Wedding. Len Gorgol would like to work with the community; we have responsibility to our neighbors and property owners. He would like to help make a difference. Kathy Niemiec said she does not have an agenda she is not here to benefit herself she would just like to help the community.

Karen Snyder said remember to keep in mind you need different walks of life to serve on the Planning Commission.

Sherry Protasiewicz ask what does it matter if a husband and wife serve; the supervisor and trustee served on the same board and they were cousins. James Dubay stated he does not make the rules, but MTA him told steer clear of a husband and wife serving on the same board.

James Dubay recommends Kathy Silvernale to the Planning Commission. Motion made by Gerald Rivard/Paul Niemiec to appoint Kathy Silvernale to the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

James Dubay recommends Michelle Wedding to the Planning Commission. Motion made by Paul Niemiec/Kimberly Day to appoint Michelle Wedding to the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

James Dubay recommends Len Gorgol to the Planning Commission. No response from Board Members.

James Dubay explained that he spoke with MTA and they said it was NOT against the law to have a husband and wife serve on a board. But he was advised to steer clear of it.

Motion made by Gerald Rivard/Betty Monsion to appoint Kathy Niemiec to the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Next Planning Commission meeting is January 8, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Northern Bay Ambulance: Gerald Rivard reported that they are checking into insurance prices, currently they have three bids.

Fire Department: James Dubay stated the Captain position was cut and dry so we will do that position first; only Anthony Holstine submitted his name. Motion made by James Dubay/Gerald Rivard to appoint Anthony Holstine as Captain to the Fire Department. Motion carried.

The Township Board reviewed all the letters that were submitted from the firefighters and the public on who they would like to see as Assistant Fire Chief. Resumes were also presents and reviewed for both candidates. Betty Monsion asked the Fire Chief who is more qualified? The Fire Chief stated that they are both qualified for the position. Dan Beyersdorf has been on the Fire Department longer. Dan Beyersdorf and Lee Heritier have both quit the Fire Department and came back on. Paul Niemiec asked both candidates how will it affect how they server the Fire Department and the Community if they win or lose? Dan Beyersdorf stated he will serve the same has he did before. Dan Beyersdorf did take a leave for 3-1/2 months and then returned to the Fire Department. Dan Beyersdorf has been doing this for 22 years. Morel at the Fire Department is at an all-time low. Lee Heritier agreed with Dan Beyersdorf. Gerald Rivard asked Lee Heritier is he was going to start talking to him on scene, because he hasn't in six or seven months. Lee Heritier said yes he would talk to Gerald Rivard, but he is not going to call and see how he is doing tonight. He will talk when he needs to. Whoever is elected needs to do damage repair.

Paul Smith stated some of the air parks have shipped and the rest should be shipped in January.

Motion made by Paul Niemiec/Kimberly Day to appoint Dan Beyersorf to the Assistant Fire Chief position. Motion carried. Roll call vote: Gerald Rivard "Yes", Betty Monsion "Yes", Paul Niemiec "Yes", Kimberly Day "Yes", James Dubay "No".

Dan Beyersdorf said he would like to review the letters that were submitted to the Township Board before he can accept the position. He needs the support of the whole Fire Department or this in not going to work.

Miscellaneous: Anthony Holstine thanked both Lee Heritier and Dan Beyersdorf and he will continue to serve no matter who is Assistant Fire Chief. He wished the Township Board would have taken into consideration everything that the public had to say.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

Motion made by James Dubay/Kimberly Day to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Kimberly Day, Clerk
