

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP
Regular Board Meeting May 13, 2025
DRAFT ONLY

The meeting was called to order by George Suchy at 7:00pm

Pledge led by: George Suchy

Members present: George Suchy, Amy Ekkel

Excused: Kristin Melvin, Ray Troyer, Kristin Melvin, Robert Larsen

Public present: There were 10 community members present at the board meeting. A list is attached.

There was not a quorum to be able to vote on any motions or business for the May 13, 2025 meeting. A meeting was set for May 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm to handle the May 13, 2025 agenda items.

_____ made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 8, 2025 meeting as presented.

_____ seconded.

_____ made a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2025 regular meeting.

_____ seconded.

Public Comments: There were ten community members that attended the May 13, 2025 board meeting. Presentations and discussions of the following:

Lori Tubergen-Clark – County Commissioner for District 5 presented the following information:

Newaygo County hired a new parks director, Asa Vermeulen, who is busy working on park expansion and educational programs. There was a deep candidate pool for this position.

Jail quarterly report indicates 249 beds occupied, 102 in county, 12 out of county and 135 federal inmates.

Secure Rural Schools Revenue which are usually available at this time are hung up at the federal level, county is watching to see what happens with the house bill 1383 these are attached to.

George Such said that Mrs. Tubergen-Clark was doing a wonderful job as the new District 5 County Commissioner.

Georgia Andres, City of Newaygo Chief of Police, Mitch Rood, Newaygo Public Schools Resource Officer and Ben Gilpin, Superintendent Newaygo Public Schools presented information on the contract for the School Resource Officer with Newaygo Public Schools. The contract will be presented at the June board meeting and they wanted to be here for the May 13, 2025 meeting to answer any questions.

Crime in Newaygo schools is down to 0 at this time, currently the coverage of two officers with a full-time officer at the middle school has shown a meaningful change in behaviors and a very good relationship with the student to officers.

NPS Superintendent indicated that day to day officer coverage has been a huge need and much needed in making critical decisions.

The contract is with the Newaygo Public School District and the City of Newaygo Police Department, with the townships of Garfield, Big Prairie, Brooks, Croton and City of Newaygo sharing in the funding of these positions.

Many of the community members asked questions regarding the service.

Solar Company and possible installation in Garfield Township – there was much discussion regarding solar energy activity in Garfield Township. Currently the Garfield Township Planning Committee is working on a Solar Ordinance. There is a public hearing for the draft solar ordinance for Solar Energy on May 27, 2025 at 7:00 pm, members in attendance were encouraged to attend.

Old Woman's Bend - community member brought up this subject followed by a short discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

*Assessor – **no action taken due to not having a quorum**

NEW BUSINESS:

*Muskegon River Enforcement Project

*Recycling Fee

*TV Installation Request

No action taken on new business due to not having a quorum

Committee Reports:

Public Comments:

Kristin Melvin
Garfield Township Clerk