

**Town of Garfield**  
**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft**  
**Town Hall – May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Ray McCown, David Jones, Sharon Schnebly, Daymon Marple, Mark Young and Tim Southern. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord Absent:

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution 2015-02 Street Levy Amount for Collection in 2016.

Tim Southern opens the meeting by saying he would like to see the Levy increase to \$62,000. Last year it cost the town \$60,000 to run the Street Fund and last year's levy was for \$57,000. Tim thinks if the town collects \$57,000 again next year the town will start to go behind. Daymon Marple says there is a lot of patching that needs to be in town as well as other items dealing with streets. Mayor McCown wants to patch about 3 trucks loads, in the past on average they do about 30 tons. Mark Young asks why did the town budget an estimated \$109,000 but only spent an estimated \$62,000 with an estimated \$35,000 in the street reserve. Tim explains everything used will roll over into the beginning balance for 2016. Currently there is \$2,000 a year stuck into the Street Reserve fund for emergency purposes or for back up in case the levy didn't pass. Tim also says when he started council 8 years ago there was nothing in reserves and it has taken this long to build up to \$35,000. He says gravel, concrete and every other material is not getting any cheaper.

Mayor McCown said he would like to see the council raise it possibly an additional \$2,000 but not raise it over the \$60,000 threshold. Tim again explains to the council that the town spent \$60,000 last year's expenditures were \$3,000 over the street levy amount. Sharon Schnebly doesn't like the idea of having to rely on what is in reserves to cover anything if the levy didn't pass. Sharon said she would be fine with \$60,000 but no more. Daymon said the Parks and Rec are running a larger than usual levy because it was missed last year. Tim said it is fine if the council wants to raise it to \$60,000 but he still strongly suggests at least \$62,000 so that the town is not starting behind again next year. Sharon believes it will be an easier for the community to accept if they do it in smaller increments. Mayor McCown said he would much rather add it to special mileage rather than the utility bill since it spreads it among all property owners in the taxing district instead of just the people paying utilities. There are a lot of people who own property in town that don't have people living in the residence so we don't collect utilities from them.

Mark wonders why the town would suggest collecting more money when some of the money was stuck into the reserve account after all expenses were paid. Tim says the beginning balance is the carryover from years previous. The town tries to gain a couple thousand just in case the levy doesn't pass then this is the reserve amount the town would have to use for the year's expenditures. Mark said he would personally like to see as minimal increase as possible. Mark also would like to see more done this year with the money collected. Tim Southern **MOVED** to propose a one year excess property tax levy which will be used to finance street maintenance and repair and street improvements for collection in 2016. Daymon Marple seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mark Young opposing.

**ADJOURNMENT:** David Jones **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Ray McCown, Mayor**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer**

