Minutes of the Sparta Township Board
Regular Meeting of September 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Sparta Township Hall, Sparta, Michigan and Virtual Via Zoom Media

Present: Township Supervisor Dale Bergman; Township Treasurer Rachel Shangle; Township Clerk Marcy Savage; Trustees Jason Bradford, Bill Goodfellow, Barb Johnson and Rob Steffens.
Also Present: IT Specialist Ken Shangle, Recording Secretary Jan Redding

Call to Order-Bergman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance-The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Additions or Corrections to the Agenda-motion by Johnson, second by Shangle, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carries unanimously.
Public Comment- Tom Antor spoke regarding the upcoming Freedom Cruise honoring and supporting veterans and their families.

A project was presented, with a request for financial support from the Board, that would add plants and trees to the Sparta Sports Park. The item was added to the agenda for discussion.

Approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report-
Motion by Steffens, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes of August 11, 2022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
Motion by Savage, second by Goodfellow to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carries unanimously.
Motion by Bradford, second by Goodfellow to accept the Building Department report as presented. Motion carries unanimously.
Approval of the Bills-Motion by Bradford, second by Shangle, to approve the bills as presented. Motion carries unanimously.
Momber Event-there was discussion of whether or not an event planned for the Momber Event Barn was in compliance with the zoning regulations. No special use had been granted, however, Mr. Momber believed he had approval by the Planning Commission for a number of special events. The Board was in support of allowing the event, which was tied to the Freedom Cruise, to be held, but felt there needed to be clarification on the status of the property's permitted uses. Motion by Savage, second by Johnson to grant permission for the event, contingent on the completion of an Outdoor Gathering permit and compliance with all requirements of that permit. Mr. Momber was instructed to work with Planner Ransford to complete the process. Motion carries unanimously.
POW/MIA Resolution-motion by Steffens, second by Johnson to adopt a resolution designating September 16, 2022 as "Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day". Motion carries unanimously.
Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment-motion by Steffens, second by Johnson to appoint Larry Goodfellow as ZBA alternate for a 3 year term. Motion carries unanimously.
Historical Museum Parking Lot-motion by Steffens, second by Bradford to accept the proposal from Mike Antor of $9000 for improvements of the parking lot at the Museum. Motion carries unanimously.
Budget Amendments-motion by Bradford, second by Shangle to amend two budget line items as presented. Motion carries unanimously.
Library Projects-Director Merri-Jo Tuinstra presented several projects and repairs for the library. Motion by Shangle, second by Johnson to approve upgrades to the security system with the Township paying half the total cost of $2,263. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion by Savage, second by Shangle to approve repairs to the entry doors. Motion carries unanimously.
Bergman will work on quotes for repair or removal of skylights in the atrium. The project will need to be coordinated with the proposed remodeling of the atrium interior space.

Zoning Permits for Fences-motion by Shangle, second by Johnson that zoning permits be required for fences. A survey will not be required for approval. There will be an exemption for fences installed as part of an agricultural business operation.

Sports Park Projects-motion by Johnson, second by Steffens to approve the purchase of plantings for the Park at a cost of $984. Motion carries unanimously.

Cemetery Projects-there was discussion of work that was needed at Greenwood and Myers cemeteries. Also, some vandalism problems at Greenwood. Motion by Johnson, second by Bradford to hire Brouwer Tree service for $3500 at Myers Cemetery, and a not to exceed price of $5000 for work at Greenwood.
It was the consensus of the Board that volunteers could do clean up as long as it was coordinated with the Sexton. Security cameras will be looked into.

Other Informational- None

Public Comment-Merri-Jo Tuinstra reported that the "No Parking" signs at the library had been replaced.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Redding, Recording Secretary