

## Meeting of the Sparta Township Board

Sparta Township Hall – 160 E Division St – Sparta MI 49345

Watch meeting live @ Sparta Township – You Tube

May 8th, 2025 – 7pm

**Present:** Supervisor Dale Bergman, Clerk Marcy Savage, Treasurer Ashley Johnson, Trustees, Bill Goodfellow, Barb Johnson, and Rob Steffens.

**Also present:** Historical Society Chairman Doug Pinckney and Recording secretary Katy Shelton.

**Absent:** Trustee Jason Bradford

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Additions or corrections to the agenda:** None. Motion by Goodfellow with a second by B. Johnson to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Public comment for agenda items:**  
None.
5. **Approval of the minutes and treasurer's report:**
  - a. **Approval of the minutes of April 10, 2025:** Motion by B. Johnson with a second by Steffens to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. **Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Savage with a second by Goodfellow to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. **Building Department monthly report:** this is informational only. Nine building permits have been issued in the past month.
6. **Business items:**
  - a. **Approval of bills:** The board discussed the recent Clean Up Days event. The event went well though it was mentioned that smaller staffing caused some delays. A new larger location will need to be found for the next Clean Up event. The biggest complaint that Township officials heard was that the Village is no longer accepting

yard waste due to the DPW demolition project. Motion by Steffens with a second by A. Johnson to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Migrant Labor Housing Amendments:** Trustees Steffens and Goodfellow attended the Township Planning Commission in order to provide guidance on this issue. A motion was made by Goodfellow and seconded by B. Johnson to pass deal with migrant housing amendment Ordinance 25-2. There was a rollcall vote taken: Yays: Bergman, Savage, Goodfellow, B Johnson, A Johnson, and Steffens. Nays: None. (Trustee Bradford was absent.) Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Cityhood General Discussion:** Clerk Savage reported on the most recent "cityhood" meeting that the Village held. This meeting specifically dealt with the financial aspect of the Village changing into a city. She said that Village Manager Lower used inaccurate figures in his power point presentation. She and the Township Supervisor asked for a meeting with the Village Manager as well as two other members of the "City" committee. Clerk Savage and Treasurer A Johnson requested that either of the two of them be included in this meeting. Clerk Savage and Supervisor Bergman said that the Village Manager refused to meet with either Savage or A Johnson and preferred to meet with the Township Supervisor and Trustee Goodfellow. The Board discussed this issue in depth. Treasurer Johnson reported that the township is preparing a presentation to present to local residents at some time in the future regarding the "Village/City" issue. The board then discussed how the Village will be able to fund various amenities that the Township is currently (primarily) funding if the Village turns into a city. In particular, the Fire Department, the library, the Sports Park, and the Historical commission were mentioned.
- d. **BS&A payments:** This issue deals with township residents being able to make payments for various things on line as opposed to doing it in person in the township office via cash or check. There will be no fee to make these payments on line. If a resident would

like to pay for something in the office using a credit or debit card, that will cost the Township several thousands of dollars in hardware, training, and usage fees. The consensus of the board was to make the arrangements for residents to pay on line and see how many people do that. If there is a big demand for being able to come into the office and use a credit or debit card to make payments, the Township can revisit that issue in the future. This change will be communicated to township residents on the website and in the next tax bill correspondence.

7. **Other informational:** Trustee B Johnson gave an update on the cemetery project. She said that work will recommence on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Steffens talked about a recent "Ag Business Day" event highlighting the farming business world that he attended with five county commissioners. He said that they visited several local farms and businesses, and that it was an overwhelming success. He mentioned that one farm touches 50 other related businesses. Treasurer A Johnson said that Cindy Dodge from the MTA will be in the Township office next week to do her assessment. She anticipates being able to report on the results at the next board meeting.
8. **Public Comment:** Historical Society Chairman Pinckney reported that several people stopped in to the Meyers school house during the recent Clean Up days. He said that they would have a float in the upcoming Town and Country Days parade. He also mentioned that the Historical Society office would be open during the Town and Country Days celebration. He said that the Meyers school house is open the second Sunday of every month and the military museum is open the second Saturday of every month.
9. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 8:12pm by B Johnson with a second by Savage. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, recording secretary.

Reviewed by Marcy Savage, Clerk