

**Minutes of the Sparta Fire Board Meeting  
May 22, 2025**

**Present:** Cumings (village), Goodfellow (twp), Cumings (village), Van Patten (village), Anderson (twp), Peoples (village) & Chief Olney. Bergman (twp-chair)

**Absent:**

Bergman called the meeting to order @7:00 pm.

**Additions to Agenda:** Kent County Fire Commission Agreement

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion:** Van Patten to approve the agenda with addition.

**Second:** Cumings

**Motion Passed:** 6-0

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025:**

**Motion:** Van Patten to approve April 17, 2025, minutes.

**Second:** Peoples

**Motion Passed:** 6-0

**Finance Board Update:**

Anderson stated that the finance board has met twice since the last board meeting. They reviewed and approved all department invoices of \$5,991.55. Cumings stated that 84% of all invoices were autopay. The department has accumulated \$15,037.34 in interest YTD.

**Approval of the bills:**

**Motion:** Made Anderson approve bills through May 20, 2025

**Second:** Cumings

**Motion Passed:** 6-0

**Old Business:**

The USDA grant update: All information has been sent to the State USDA office for their review. Per the State USDA office, they are reviewing the grant package. The Chief stated he will keep calling.

PAR Grant: Our grant has been denied due to items requested could be covered in department budget. The Chief stated he will check and see what items could have been approved and what department received the PAR grants.

Amendment NO 1 to the Joint Fire Protection Agreement: The Chief presented to the board an amendment to the joint fire protection agreement. The draft was prepared by the fire department attorney. The Board suggested that before the board approves the amendment, the Village and Township attorneys review the amendment.

**Motion:** Made Cumings to table the amendment pending village and Township attorney's review.

**Second:** VanPatten

**Motion Passed:** 6-0

**Chief's Report:** Chief Olney presented the Chief's report. (attached) There were 432 YTD. There were 5 mutual aid calls. There were 2 accidents, with no injuries this past month. Several alarms and hazardous conditions due to the latest storm which swept through the township.

**Kent County Fire Commission Agreement:** The Chief presented to the board the revised Commission Agreement for Kent County. The biggest changes are the terms for getting a replacement apparatus and maintenance agreement through the Fire Commission. Our board member Tom Peoples is a member of the Kent County Fire Commission and provided input into the agreement. The Chief stated that being a member of the Fire Commission has been a great benefit for the Sparta Fire Department and would suggest we continue to be a member of the Fire Commission.

**Motion: Made Peoples** to approve the Kent County Fire Commission agreement and continue to a member.

**Second: Goodfellow**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

**Request to Purchase new fire gloves:** The chief presented quotes for new fire gloves and leather work gloves. All the gloves have a 10-year replacement requirement by OSHA. Most of the department gloves are worn out or over the 10-year replacement requirement. The Chief has recommended that the department purchase HexArmor Gloves (a Grand Rapids Based Company) based on the tests the department conducted. The gloves will be funded by the donation that the Eagles have given to the Department.

**Motion: Made VanPatten** purchase gloves from Phoenix Safety Outfitters for \$3,646.80.

**Second: Peoples**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

**Next Meeting Date:** June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the fire station.

**Next Finance Meeting Dates:** June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at the fire station.

**Public Comment:** The board reviewed the ongoing update for the department web site. The Chief stated that he's meeting the web site developer for additional information, including a new letter. The Chief stated that he'd employed 1 additional fire fighter which brings the total number of firefighters up to 18. The Chief said it's really hard to keep firefighters as other departments are looking for full time firefighters.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion: Goodfellow** to adjourn at 8:03 PM.

**Second: Van Patten**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

Minutes by Goodfellow 5-24-25.



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**Chiefs Report**  
**May 22, 2025**

**Previous meeting information and updates:**

1. Station Grant update
2. PAR Grant

**New Business:**

1. Monthly report
  - a. Fire calls (NFIRS 100 classifications)
    1. 3849 Yorkland – auto aid to Alpine for a possible apartment fire
    2. 4000 West River – mutual aid to Plainfield for a commercial building fire
    3. 255 Applewood – fire in the dust collector; Auto Aid from Kent City
    4. 3753 Taft St – mutual aid with water for a structure fire in Chester Twp
    5. 12003 Sparta Ave – reported structure fire the was brush burning
    6. 10696 Kenowa – farm tractor on fire
    7. 11251 Sawmill Ct – mutual aid to Algoma Fire with water for a house fire
    8. 3863 Yorkland – auto aid to Alpine for a reported garage fire – nothing located
  - b. Explosions calls (NFIRS 200 classifications)
  - c. Rescue calls including accidents (NFIRS 3- classifications)
    1. 11694 Sparta Ave: (no injuries)
    2. 10-mile and Alpine Ave: (no injuries)
  - d. Hazardous Conditions (NFIRS 400 classifications)
    1. We responded to 6 power line calls during the storm events
  - e. Service calls (NFIRS 500 classifications)
  - f. Good intent calls (NFIRS 600 classifications)
    1. We responded to 2 – reported smoke in the area calls
    2. A controlled burning complaint
    3. A cancelled call after being dispatched
  - g. False alarms (NFIRS 700 classifications)
    1. 309 S Union – fire alarm (false trip)
    2. 300 Blake – CO alarm activation
    3. 122 Aspen – fire alarm (false trip)
    4. 140 Clark St – faulty detector
    5. 3631 13-mile – fire alarm (false trip)
    6. 560 W Sparta Dr – fire alarm (false trip)
    7. 324 S Union – fire alarm (false trip)
    8. 679 S State – fire alarm (false trip)
  - h. Severe Weather incident (NFIRS 800 classifications)
  - i. Special Incidents (NFIRS 900 classifications)

# Fire Board Report

Fire Incidents

Filter statement

Filters

Alarm Date Range 4/14/25 to 5/18/25 | Is Locked true | Is Active true

Incident Count by Shift

