

Meeting of Sparta Township Board

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

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September 11, 2025 - 7pm

Present: Supervisor Dale Bergman, Clerk Marcy Savage, Treasurer Ashley Johnson, Trustee Jason Bradford, Bill Goodfellow, Barb Johnson, and Rob Steffens.

Also Present: Historical Society Chairman Doug Pinckey and Recording Secretary Sarah Fischer.

Absent: None

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Dale Bergman asked for a moment of silence in memory of the Victims of 9/11/2001**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. **Additions or corrections to the agenda:** Dale Bergman requested the addition of #10 to the resolution to oppose annexation of Peterson property. Motion moved by Bill Goodfellow with a second by Barb Johnson. Passed unanimously.
5. **Public Comment for agenda items:** None.
6. **Approval of minutes and treasurer's report:**
 1. **Approval of minutes of August 14th, 2025:** Motion by Bill Goodfellow with a second by Ashley Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.
 2. **Closed session August 14th, 2025:** Motion by Bill Goodfellow with a second by Rob Steffens. The motion passed unanimously.
 3. **Treasurer's Report:** There was a discussion about Michigan Class.
7. **Building Department Monthly Report:** this is informational only.

Business items:

- a. **Approval of Bills:** motion by Rob Steffens with a second by Barb Johnson to approve the bills. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Earned Sick Time: This was a follow-up meeting from August 14th. Updated drafted Earned Sick time Policy was reviewed. Motioned by Marcy Savage with a second by Barb Johnson to approve the draft. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Township Hall Safety and Security - Door Locks: This was a follow-up meeting from August 14th. Dale Young, of 11385 Tebeau Dr, attended the meeting to explain his quote estimate and proposed work for installing key fobs and replacing locks and keys. It was decided to seek additional quotes specifically for lock and key replacement only. A final decision was tabled until the next meeting.

d. Civic Center Trade for Historical Commission Research Facility Agreement: The agreement includes several legal revisions recommended by the Township's attorney to ensure fairness, protect future taxpayer funds, and provide long-term clarity for both parties. Finalized documents will be prepared, with Dale Bergman signing first and Marcy Savage signing later due to scheduled leave. Once signed, the documents will be submitted to the Village of Sparta for review and countersignature. A motion to approve the agreement and forward the finalized document to the Village was made by Marcy Savage and seconded by Jason Bradford. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Master Plan Approval for Distribution: After much discussion, Rob Steffens made a motion with a second by Barb Johnson to approve the Master Plan for Distribution. All yeas. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Planning Commission Recommendation Bed and Breakfasts: The Township had previously adopted a zoning ordinance text amendment permitting bed and breakfasts as special land use within the C-1 General Commercial Zoning District. However, this amendment was inadvertently omitted during the codification and re-adoption of the zoning ordinance. As a result, the Planning Commission convened and prepared a recommendation to formally adopt the amendment. Rob Steffens made a motion to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation, with a second by Jason Bradford. All yeas. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Re-Appointment to Z.B.A Mike Lockard, Andrew Barnum, and Alternate Larry Goodfellow for 3-year terms.

- 1. Mike Lockard:** Motion to approve by Bill Goodfellow and seconded by Jason Bradford. Passed 6-1, Goodfellow dissenting.
- 2. Andrew Barnum:** Motion to approve by Jason Bradford and seconded by Marcy Savage. All yeas. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Alternate Larry Goodfellow:** Motion to approve by Rob Steffens and seconded by Barb Johnson. All yeas. The motion passed unanimously.

h. Re-Appointment to Construction Board of Appeals, Gary Moody, Tim Driscoll, and Bill Tayler for 3-year terms.

1. **Gary Moody:** Motion to approve by Bill Goodfellow and seconded by Jason Bradford. All yeas. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Tim Driscoll:** Motion to approve by Bill Goodfellow and seconded by Jason Bradford. All yeas. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Bill Taylor:** Motion to approve by Marcy Savage and seconded by Barb Johnson. All yeas. The motion passed unanimously.

i. Tree Removal Work at Fairplain's Cemetery: Beaver Tree Services, LLC submitted a bid to the Township for tree removal, trimming, stump grinding, and cleanup work at Fairplain's Cemetery. Dale Bergman asked for a motion to accept the bid, motion made by Rob Steffens and a seconded by Barb Johnson. All yeas. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Annexation of Peterson property: Motion made by Marcy Savage seconded by Ashley Johnson to approve a resolution opposing proposed annexation of the Peterson Property. Roll call was conducted, all board members said yes. Passed unanimously.

Other Informational:

- Dale Bergman opened a brief discussion on short-term rentals, noting the Planning Commission is considering an ordinance. Other townships, like Nelson, have faced opposition due to noise and neighborhood concerns. It was suggested that if the board is not supportive, they should advise the Planning Commission early on to avoid unnecessary work. The consensus of the Board was to not have the planning commission work on the short term rental ordinance.
- Rob Steffen reported that vandalism at the Sparta Sports Complex continues. Police are aware, and all damage from the latest incident has been repaired.

Public Comment: Historical Society Chairman, Doug Pinckney shared that Wednesday September 17th at 5:00 PM, they will be planting two trees at the nursing home—one in memory of Jim Lyles, and the other in honor of Don and Kay Bradford.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:31PM by Marcy Savage, with a second by Ashley Johnson. All Yeas.

Submitted by: Sarah Fischer

Reviewed by: Marcy Savage