

## Meeting of Sparta Township Board

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

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April 9th, 2026 - 7 p.m.

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

**Also present:** Sparta Library Director Merri-Jo Tuinstra, Village President Robert Whalen and Recording Secretary Sarah Fischer.

**Absent:** Treasurer Ashley Johnson

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:** Dale proposed correcting the date for the "Approval of Minutes from Last Month" item on the agenda, changing it from March 13, 2026, to March 12, 2026. The motion was made by Rob Steffens and seconded by Barb Johnson. It passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
4. **Public Comment on agenda items:** None.
5. **Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report:**
  - **Approval of Minutes of March 12th, 2026:** Motion to approve the Minutes by Bill Goodfellow, second by Barb Johnson. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
  - **Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Barb Johnson, second by Jason Bradford. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.

**Building Department Monthly Report:** *Informational only.*

### Business Items:

1. **Approval of Bills:** Motion by Rob Steffen with a second by Jason Bradford to approve the bills. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
2. **Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations:** Bill Goodfellow moved to adopt the Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations Ordinance, with support from Barb Johnson.

The regulations ordinance passed unanimously in a 6–0 roll call vote, with all board members voting in favor.

3. **Library Millage Renewal Ballot Proposal:** The board reviewed the renewal request, which had been previously approved by the Library Board. Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Jason Bradford and seconded by Marcy Savage to approve Resolution 26-02 to place the matter on the ballot. The resolution passed unanimously in a 6–0 roll call vote, with all board members voting in favor.
4. **Township Standards of Ethical Conduct:** The board discussed the possibility of creating a code of ethics or employee handbook. Bill Goodfellow offered to assist with drafting the document if needed, while Dale and Marcy noted that an insurance representative offered examples and helpful reports the board could use. The board agreed to review the information before making a decision and tabled the discussion until next month.
5. **Policy of Trailer Parks for Clean Up Days:** Trailer parks often have a significant number of personal belongings left behind after tenants move out. In the past, park employees would collect these items, along with additional items from community members, and bring them to Sparta Township Clean-Up Days. However, the Township is now charged per furniture item and has implemented limits per residence. The board reached a consensus that each household is allowed one large furniture item, and proof of residency must be provided, with the resident present at the time of drop-off.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

- Dale Bergman reported a recent issue with the elevator following repairs completed by Kone. After an evaluation by Otis, they believe the problem was attributed to a power issue and not related to Kone's prior work. Dale suggested requesting a follow-up service visit from Kone at no cost and the board agreed.
- Dale Bergman, the Township Supervisor provided a public statement clarifying his residency following questions raised at a previous board meeting. He confirmed that Sparta Township remains his primary residence, where he is a registered voter, receives mail, and stores personal belongings and farm equipment. He also explained that he and his wife recently purchased a condo in Rockford, which he uses periodically while working on renovations, but stated he will primarily be staying at his Sparta residence during the week. He further outlined his weekly township office hours, which are Monday 3:00 PM–5:00 PM, Tuesday 2:00 PM–5:00

PM, Wednesday 8:00 AM–12:00/noon, and Thursday 3:00 PM–5:00 PM. He also provided his cell phone contact information and expressed appreciation for the community's continued support.

- The board read a statement from the township attorney regarding a lawsuit filed against the township and several board members. The statement noted that on March 16, 2026, the U.S. District Court dismissed all claims brought against Sparta Township and its officials by CD Member Sales LLC related to a proposed annexation of a 58-acre parcel. The court upheld the township's position that the annexation was barred under an existing 2009 Act 425 agreement and also found that the claims against individual officials lacked standing. The township attorney confirmed the ruling through a 13-page court decision citing legal precedent supporting the dismissal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Cody Kiber, a Cedar Springs native currently living in Grand Rapids and planning to move to Sparta, presented a proposal to develop a small gravity and downhill mountain bike park near 377 North State Street in Sparta. He explained that he and other local riders frequently travel out of state due to the lack of similar facilities in West Michigan, and he believes Sparta could benefit from creating a destination-style bike park that would attract riders and families while supporting local businesses.

**ADJOURMENT:** Motion to adjourn at 7:51PM by Rob Steffens, second by Marcy Savage. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.

**Submitted by: Sarah Fischer**