

**Minutes of the Sparta Area Fire Authority Meeting  
April 23, 2026**

**Present:** Goodfellow (twp), Cumings (village), Chief Olney, Bergman (twp-chair), Johnson (village), Peoples (village) and Anderson (twp)

**Absent:** none

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

**Additions to Agenda:** none

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion:** Anderson to approve the agenda

**Second:** Johnson

**Motion Passed:** 6-0

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes March 19, 2026 & March 30, 2026:**

**Motion:** Made Johnson approve March 19, 2026, and March 30, 2026, minutes.

**Second:** Cumings

**Motion Passed:** 6-0

**Finance Board Update:**

Cumings stated that the finance board had met once since the last board meeting. They reviewed and approved all department invoices for \$7,300.12. The department's operation budget for the year end was at 84% for the year. The department has been encouraged to save operational funds if possible. The Chief has managed these funds with great efficiency and has saved funds. The savings have helped with a fund balance increase to \$1,421,111, which will all be needed for the fire station addition. Some of the saving are attributed to the lower number of fire fighters. The Chief is continually looking for new fire fighters. The Chief stated that training a new fire fighter costs around \$2000 plus the cost of gear. The Chief stated that updated Capital Improvement plans need to be reviewed. The fire station addition was the largest item on the past improvement plan. Future major item would be new fire truck in conjunction with Kent County in the 2030's where the department would need a lot of additional funds to acquire.

**Approval of the bills:**

**Motion:** Anderson to approve bills through April 21, 2026.

**Second:** Peoples

**Motion Passed:** 6-0

**Old Business:**

**Station Update:** Because of the objection filed by Horizon Building Group the station construction start date has been moved out to later in May. The Department's attorney has responded to Horizon Building Group and will finalize the document package for the FOIA request. Unless Horizon takes additional legal action, construction should move forward next month.

**Millage Proposition:** The chief stated that Kent County has received the department's millage request. The millage request will be on the August primary ballot. The Chief is working on social media and the department web site for an explanation on the millage request.

**Chief's Report:**

There were 86 calls last period and 309 calls YTD. (see attached) There were 10 fire related fire calls of which 6 were auto aid, none were serious. There were 6 accidents with just some minor accidents for the month. The Chief stated that he'd sent 3 fire fighters to FDIC show in Indianapolis where they could review the latest air packs for the grant the department received.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> the Sparta Fire Department along with Alpine Tyrone Fire Departments will participate in "Distracted Drive Event" at Sparta High School. The event is a on hands demonstration of an auto accident. The Rockford Ambulance, Air Med, county and local police, Kent County Dispatch and GVMC will all be participating in the event.

**Public Comment:** None

**Next Meeting Date:** May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at the fire station.

**Next Finance Meeting Dates:** May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 4:00 PM at the fire station.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** Cumings to adjourn at 7:28 PM.

**Second:** Johnson

**Motion Passed:** 6-0

Minutes by Goodfellow 4-26-26.



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## Chiefs Report

### **New Business:**

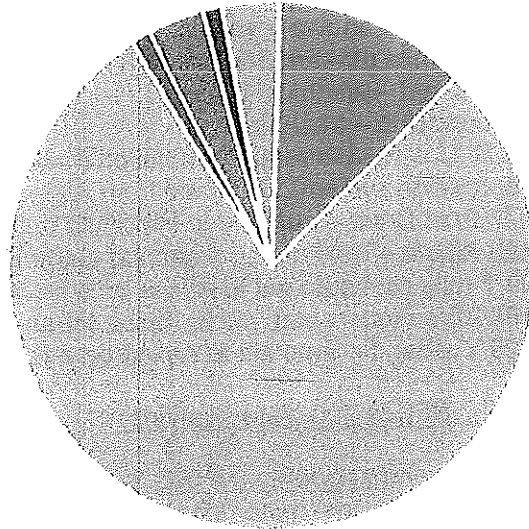
1. Monthly report (from March 16, 2026, thru April 19, 2026)
  1. Fire calls (NFIRS 100 classifications)
    1. 13-mile and Kenowa – vehicle fire
    2. 1991 12-mile rd – ammonia leak (small leak and contained)
    3. 69 Pleasant – electrical issue
    4. 48 Friendship – trash fire
    5. 305 S. Union – General Formulation (machine fire – put out by the suppression system): Auto aid from Alpine and Kent City Fire
    6. 1977 Post Drive – auto aid to Plainfield on a house fire (cancelled)
    7. 5480 Alpine – auto aid on a second alarm to Alpine
    8. 309 7-mile rd – auto aid to Alpine on a house fire (cancelled)
    9. 4188 Alpenhorn – auto aid to Alpine for an apartment complex on fire
    10. 3925 Yorkland – auto aid to Alpine on a fire in the stove (cancelled)
  2. Explosions calls (NFIRS 200 classifications)
  3. Rescue calls, including accidents (NFIRS 3- classifications)
    1. 13-mile and Alpine: minor injuries
    2. 12000 block of Long Lake: minor injuries
    3. M37 and 10-mile: rolled over armored vehicle
    4. 679 S State: roll over – no injuries
    5. M37 and 15-mile
    6. 13-mile and N Division: no injuries
  4. Hazardous Conditions (NFIRS 400 classifications)
    1. 170 Kings Blvd: powerline down
  5. Service calls (NFIRS 500 classifications)
  6. Good intent calls (NFIRS 600 classifications)
    1. 359 N Elm – illegal burn
  7. False alarms (NFIRS 700 classifications)
    1. 11857 Phelps – fire alarm
    2. 341 10-mile: CO alarm activation
    3. 607 Bedford Falls – CO Alarm activation
  8. Severe Weather incident (NFIRS 800 classifications)
  9. Special incidents (NFIRS 900 classifications)



# Sparta Fire Authority

36 Elmwood Street  
Sparta, MI 49345  
Telephone: 616-887-0900

March 16 thru April 19, 2026



- Fire Incidents
- Explosion
- All medicals and accidents
- Hazardous Conditions
- Service Calls
- Good Intent
- False Alarms
- Weather Related Events
- Special Events/Incidents

Incident Type	Date: 3-16-2026 thru 4-19-2026
Fire Incidents	10
Explosion	0
All medicals and accidents	68
Hazardous Conditions	1
Service Calls	3
Good Intent	1
False Alarms	3
Weather Related Events	0
Special Events/Incidents	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>

**Year to date: 309**