

Meeting of Sparta Township Board

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

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September 10th, 2026 - 7 p.m.

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

Also Present: MerriJo Library Director and Recording Secretary Sarah Fischer.

Absent: None.

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 Bergman requested that number 8, approval of press release concerning library millage be added. Barb Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of number 8, seconded by Marcy Savage. The motion was carried unanimously, with all members voting in favor.
4. **Public Comment on agenda items:** None.
5. **Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. **Approval of Minutes of August 13th, 2026:** Motion to approve the Minutes by Rob Steffens, second by Bill Goodfellow. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Rob Steffens, second by Barb Johnson. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
6. **Building Department Monthly Report:** Informational only.

Business Items:

1. **Approval of the bills:** Motion by Ashley Johnson with a second by Marcy Savage to approve the bills. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
2. **Roof Quote Approval:** The Board reviewed the proposed Township Hall roof replacement with Arrow Roofing. The contractor and bid were recommended by the committee. The contractor discussed the scope of work, including insulation, edge metal, HVAC and utility considerations, removal and reinstallation of the murals, and potential treatment of the adjoining brick wall. The roof quote totaled \$53,887, with an additional estimated \$2,950 option for membrane treatment of the adjoining wall, pending coordination and permission from the neighboring property owner. A motion was made by Jason Bradford with a second by Barb Johnson to approve the Arrow Roofing quote for \$53,887. The motion passed unanimously with all members in favor.

3. **Public Safety Revenue Sharing Allocation:** Sergeant Price shared how the Township could connect its cameras through a cellular carrier to the Kent County system, allowing the Sparta Police Department real-time remote access to camera footage. The Board discussed using a portion of the \$16,000 Public Safety Revenue Sharing allocation to improve camera systems at the Sparta Sports Complex, Township Office, and other Township properties, with the remaining funds allocated to the Kent County Sheriff's Department as previously discussed. A motion was made by Marcy Savage and seconded by Barb Johnson to proceed with the proposed public safety improvements. Additionally, a committee consisting of Ashley Johnson, Barb Johnson, and Rob Steffens was formed to determine the locations for additional cameras throughout the Township.
4. **Planning Commission Recommendation:** The Board reviewed the proposed Home Occupation Ordinance and discussed questions regarding contractor offices, non-resident employees, licensing requirements, and special land use provisions. The Board agreed to submit the outstanding questions to Kevin for further clarification and table the item until a future meeting.
5. **Library Sign:** The Board discussed repairs to the damaged Sparta Library Memorial Park sign, located at the park behind the library. The sign requires repair due to a missing section. A motion was made by Jason Bradford and seconded by Barb Johnson to approve up to \$1,000 for repairs to the sign. The motion passed unanimously with all members in favor.
6. **Z.B.A. Re-appointment - Terry Jost:** Dale Bergman recommended the reappointment of Terry Jost. A motion was made by Rob Steffens and seconded by Bill Goodfellow to reappoint Terry Jost. The motion passed unanimously with all members in favor.
7. **B.O.R. Appointment Replacing Chris Brown - Dean Anderson - Rachel Shangle Replacing Dean Anderson (Alternate):** The Board discussed appointments to fill vacancies on the Board of Review. A motion was made by Bill Goodfellow and seconded by Jason Bradford to appoint Dean Anderson to the Board of Review. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Marcy Savage and seconded by Ashley Johnson to appoint Rachel Shangle as the alternate to the Board of Review. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Approval of the Press Release:** The Board reviewed and discussed a proposed press release regarding the library millage and related litigation. Board members discussed the purpose, content, and tone of the press release, which was prepared following consultation with the Township's legal counsel. A motion was made by Barb Johnson and seconded by Rob Steffens to approve the release of the press release. A roll call vote was taken, with Marcy Savage, Jason Bradford, Ashley Johnson, Barb Johnson, Rob Steffens, and Dale Bergman voting yes, and Bill Goodfellow voting no. The motion passed 6 to 1. The Board reached a consensus to post the press release on the Township website.

Other Informational:

- The Fire Station has broken ground on the construction project.
- Barb Johnson provided an update on the new museum, reporting significant progress. Museum representatives will be meeting with a representative from the Grand Rapids Public Museum who has been assisting with the project. The museum is hoping to open by December and will be selling apple-themed products during Apple Fest, with proceeds benefiting the museum.
- The Board received an update from Rob Steffens on recent improvements made to the Sparta Sports Park.

Public Comment:

- Lynn Afendoulis, Republican candidate for State Representative, addressed the Board and thanked Sparta residents for their support. She spoke briefly about her campaign and her desire to represent and remain engaged with the Sparta community.
- Mary-Ann Meyer, a member of the Library Board, thanked the Township Board for its continued support of the library. She highlighted the library's importance to the community, including participation in its programs, and expressed concern about the potential impact on library services, staffing, and operations if funding were reduced. She expressed the Library Board's appreciation for the Township's support.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 8:38PM by Marcy Savage, second by Ashley Johnson. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.

Submitted by: Sarah Fischer

Reviewed by :Marcy Savage