

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the
Sparta Township Board
160 E. Division - Sparta MI 49345
October 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Dale Bergman.

Members Present: Dale Bergman, Rachel Shangle, Marcy Savage, Bill Goodfellow, Chad Momber, Rob Steffens at 7:12

Members Absent: Jason Bradford

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE BUSINESS AGENDA

It was motioned by Goodfellow to approve the agenda and seconded by Shangle.

Carried 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bergman requested an addition to the minutes (see attached)

Moved by Goodfellow, 2nd by Momber to approve minutes of September 12, 2019

**Carried 4-1
Savage Dissented**

Moved by Goodfellow, 2nd by Marcy to approve the Treasurers report.

Carried 5-0

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of the Bills

Motion to approve payment of the bills by Momber, 2nd by Shangle.

Carried 5-0

2. STHC Research Facility sanitary and Storm Water Lines Update

Bergman reported that Dennis Brinks from the village will put a meter on the water coming into the building to see if it's enough to need to change the water lines.

3. Library Park-Becky Wildeboer and Sue Blackall

Wildeboer and Blackall were unable to attend. Bergman reported that they wanted the Township to do some landscaping around the Community Club House. No decision was made.

4. Library Thermostat- Dave Ignasiak, Orchard Hill Mechanical

Dave Ignasiak informed the board that the Library thermostat is old, and you cannot find replacement parts for it. The new wiring and thermostat will run \$2500-\$3000. Goodfellow made a motion to replace the thermostat, not to exceed \$3000.00. It was seconded by Steffens.

Carried 6-0

5. Supervisor's Wages

Bergman gave a presentation about how good he is at his job and how underpaid he is, and asked for a raise of more than \$2000.00 (See Attached) Savage stated the Board removed Bergman's responsibilities for Zoning administration, which took most of his time, so he would not need to be in the office as much; this was because of his harassment of people in the office, which should not be rewarded. BERGMAN FELT THESE STATEMENTS ARE INCORRECT. Shangle stated this was not the time to discuss raises; that at this time we are discussing how much the removal of Zoning administration should affect Bergman's wages. The Board thought Bergman should be paid the same while the new zoning administrator is familiarizing himself to the new position at the Township. Several people in the audience commented in support of Bergman. Deputy Treasurer Dame said the new Zoning Administrator is doing a great job, very professional and knowledgeable.

Shangle made a motion as of December 1st to drop the additional duty portion of the Supervisors pay to \$3,000.00 bringing the Supervisor total pay annually to \$21,744.75. It was seconded by Steffens.

Failed 3-3

Dissenting Momber, Goodfellow and Bergman

Goodfellow made a motion to keep the Supervisors salary the same until Feb. 1. It was seconded by Momber.

Failed 3-3

Dissenting Savage, Shangle and Steffens

Steffens made a motion as of January 1st to drop the additional duty portion of the Supervisors pay to \$3,000.00 bringing the Supervisors total pay annually to \$21,744.75. It was seconded by Goodfellow.

Carried 4-2

Dissenting Savage and Shangle

OTHER INFORMATION

Steffens informed the Board on the progress of the SRA park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lois Lovell appreciated everyone on the Board for their hard jobs.

Debbie Poling appreciates all Bergman does for the Library.

Don Doyle hopes everyone can get along.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Goodfellow and 2nd by Steffens

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Savage, Sparta Township Clerk

Item to add to Agenda + Minute Correction and addition

The Supervisor, Dale Bergman stated that the Clerk, Marcy Savage had extended an olive branch in being sorry about deleted emails and that he wanted to extend an olive branch to her as well. He stated that for the good of the Township, He would like to see Marcy be clerk and himself to be supervisor and move on with the important issues in the Township and put aside our differences. Savage said ok and Bergman said thank-you.

October 7, 2019
Supervisor's Wages Issue

Per Capita Issue: Village - Part of Township

1. I campaign in the Township and Village. Examples are: spend money, signs, mailings etc. and approach Village businesses and residents.
2. I serve on the Township/Village Boards. Examples are: Fire Board - chairman, 16 years + history, S.R.A. I have attended most of their meetings. Village members have expressed how important it is, that I am there.
3. I have been very active in cemetery issues, resident concerns in the Village and Township at their requests.
4. I am involved with the library repairs. Examples are: working to get CDBG money for roof, special events, always supportive of the library, help in solving the water leak in the basement and worked on the new boiler. Again, both Village and Township residents benefit.
5. I am very involved with the Historical Commission building repairs, events, and worked to get a new roof, (which was covered by insurance) on the Historical museum. Again, Village and Township residents benefit.
6. I have worked at the Village - Township clean up days, as long as it has been in existence.
7. I worked with the Sparta Township Board and the Sparta Village Council on two 425 agreements and will most likely will work on one in the future.
8. I am also the greeter at the Board of Review meetings and help the applicants make out their forms for tax appeals. This concerns Village and Township residents.
9. Residents in the Village are allowed to be on the Township Board. Again, the Village is part of the Township. Village members vote for Township officials. Village and Township residents can run for Township office.

Seniority:

I have served as Sparta Township Supervisor for almost 6 terms (24 years), as well as being the zoning administrator for 23 ½ years. To my knowledge, there is not a supervisor in Kent County that is the zoning administrator. I am not saying that there may not be one, however, I can say that none have served for 23 ½ years.

When I started in 1996, serving as Supervisor, the salary was \$16,500.00. In those years of service, my salary has only gone up less than \$9,000.00. I don't know of many people who would find this to be unreasonable. I have never charged the Township for any mileage. There are no health insurance benefits to this job. I have always paid my family's own health insurance costs. This job has to be a job where you are available to the people, hence, you have to have a job where you can leave at anytime. Most people can't afford this luxury. The setting of a supervisor's wage will determine the type of person that could or want to do the job. Again, too low, how many people are going to even want or have the ability to do this job. My abilities and talents in the field of zoning issues are very important to the job.

Greg Ransford and I have been working very well together. My history of zoning issues are very important to him in his zoning interpretations of the zoning ordinance. It has been very beneficial to the Township that I now have the time to work with Greg on new legislation to help the Township.

Hours Issue:

I remember going to an M.T.A. presentation with Catherine Kaufman as the speaker. She stated that serving as an elected official was not so much as an hourly job, but the real value of an elected officials job, is in the important decisions that have to be made. I think it is hard for people to get into that mindset, but it is entirely true. Think of the far reaching decisions that really affect the township citizens lives. The Park, the proposed Hidden Prairie project, Fire department, platform ladder truck, roads, cemeteries, library, Historical Commission, taxes, land use issues and zoning issues are jut a few examples.

For the past four weeks, I have been keeping track of my hours and have averaged 13 hours per week. I have been working with the Boards requested office hours and have been writing down additional hours serving residents concerns and attending Rotary, S.R.A. and D.D.A. meetings. Members of these committees have expressed how happy they are that I attend their meetings.

As in the past, I will also attend all planning commission meetings, Z.B.A. meetings, private road commission meetings, construction board of appeals meetings, supervisors meetings the Fire board meetings and Board of Review meetings.

Proposed Salary Request:

I am requesting from the Board, a salary of \$27,000.00 per year. I think this is a reasonable request, considering the size of our townships population, my seniority and experience, the hours I will be working and the talents I bring to the job. This also coincides with what the Courtland Township supervisor receives.

Thank you for your kind consideration.
Dale Bergman

DB/jb