

**Minutes of the Sparta Fire Board Meeting
January 23, 2020
Sparta Fire Station**

Present: Bergman (twp-chair), Fisk (village), Anderson (twp), Cumings (village) & Goodfellow (twp)

Also, present: Chief Olney and Deputy Chief Wood

Absent: Van Patten (village)

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

Additions to Agenda: none

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Cumings to approve the agenda.

Seconded: Fisk

Motion Passed: 5-0

Public Comment: none

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: Made by Fisk to approve the December 19, 2019 minutes.

Seconded: Cumings

Motion Passed: 5-0

Approval of the bills:

Motion: Made by Goodfellow to approve bills through January 21, 2020

Seconded: Anderson

Motion Passed: 5-0

Finance Board Update:

Anderson stated that the finance board meet twice in the past weeks. The finance board approved all invoices presented. The expenditures through mid-January are under running the budget.

Old Business:

Accounting contract: Bergman reviewed the insurance requirements with Dan Veldhuizen the fire department audit firm for the requirement of an accounting contract between the Village and the Fire Department and a security bond.

Bergman to discuss with the Village Manager for the need for a written contract and if the Village wants to continue doing the Fire Department accounting.

Olney stated that the responsibilities and requirements for the Department accounting has been updated by the Village and the Fire Department.

Water Leak along building: Chief Olney stated that Plumber's has flushed out all the interior and exterior drains and no issues were discovered. Next step, Plumber's will video the drains and check for any damages or cracks.

Chief's Report:

Chief Olney presented the Chief Report (see attachments). There were 50 calls so far in January with 945 calls for 2019. There were (7) fire call, (7) accidents and 4 with injuries, and (2) mutual aid assists.

Thermal Imager Grant: The Department didn't receive any grants due to the total of grants and funds available.

Chief Olney stated they are working with the vendor for better pricing for a Thermal Imager.

Mason Property: Patti Mason has been in contact with Chief Olney to see if the Fire Department is interested in the property next door (north of) the existing fire station. Mason's are in the process of cleaning out the property which has been vacant for several months now. Mrs. Mason will continue to keep the fire chief informed on what the status of the property is and what the Mason's are looking for in the way of a price.

Suspicious fires: Over the past several months there have been several fires in Sparta that have the appearance of being set. The Chief and Village Police Department are handling the investigation.

Public Comment: none

Next Regular Meeting Date:

February 20, 2020 at 7 pm at the Sparta Fire Station.

Motion: Made by Cumings to adjourn at 7:35 PM

Seconded: Fisk

Motion Passed: 5-0

Finance meetings: February 4th and February 18th at 4:00 PM Sparta Township Office. Minutes by Goodfellow 1-23-20

Chiefs Report January 23, 2020

Old Business:

1. Accounting services – the job description was sent to the Village for review, one addition was put on the list of responsibilities. Everything else was still ok.
2. Water Leak at the station – DPW crews had a 3rd party company come in and flush the and clean the lines from the station to the storm sewer and well as flush the storm sewer line. No blockage was detected. The plan is to have line checked with a camera and see if there are any cracks or breaks in the line.

New Business:

1. Monthly report
 - a. Fire calls and alarms:
 1. Fruitridge and 16-mile – smell of smoke
 2. 8700 block of Countryview Circle – space heater left on by drywall crews, no fire
 3. S. State – smell of smoke
 4. Bedford Falls – smoke scare (steam from a dryer vent)
 5. 1200 block of Glen Park – outdoor shed fire
 6. South Street – basement fire (Auto aid from Alpine and Kent City)
 7. S. State – sprinkler head activation – no fire
 8. S. Union – Fire alarm (cancelled prior to arrival)
 - b. Wires and hazardous condition calls:
 1. S. Union - wire down
 - c. Accidents:
 1. Long Lake and 13-mile (PI – minor injuries)
 2. M-37 and 13-mile (PI – minor injuries)
 3. Sparta Ave and M-37 (PI, 4 patients), assistance from Alpine
 4. 1800 block of 15-mile (PI – no injuries)
 5. Edward St. (PI – no injuries)
 6. Edward St. (PI – pedestrian struck)
 7. 12000 block of Peachridge (PI – no injuries)
2. Thermal Imager Grant though Firehouse Subs – the grant was denied due to the total number of grants submitted and the available funds. Currently we are working on prices and other camera options.
3. Mason Property (53 N State Street). Patti Mason has reached out to the department to see if there is any interest in us purchasing the property on the north side of the station. She stated that they are looking to try and sell it sometime around July of this year. She has not set a sale price yet and is currently working with a realtor on getting an appraisal completed. Mrs. Mason did state that she would like to work though the realtor but would like to void listing if we were interested. Mrs. Mason was provided with my contact information and stated that she would be in touch once the appraisal was complete.

4. Suspicious Fires

- Over that past couple of months we have had two different fires in the Village that have been determined to be suspicious in nature with no cause of the fire determined.
- We are also looking into a 3rd fire in the general area that was also listed as undetermined but occurred several months prior to the two current fires
- Though interviews with various people we have been able to eliminate a couple of different potential subjects, but we still have one person of interest.
- Sparta PD has been assisting with the interviews and collection of witness statements

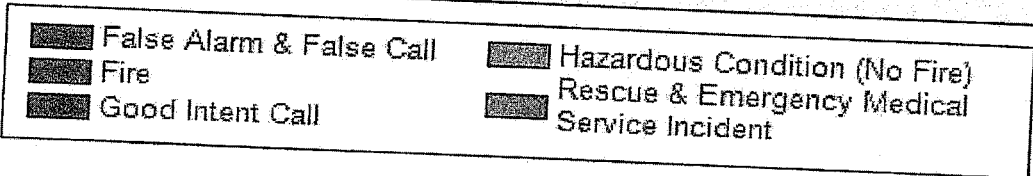
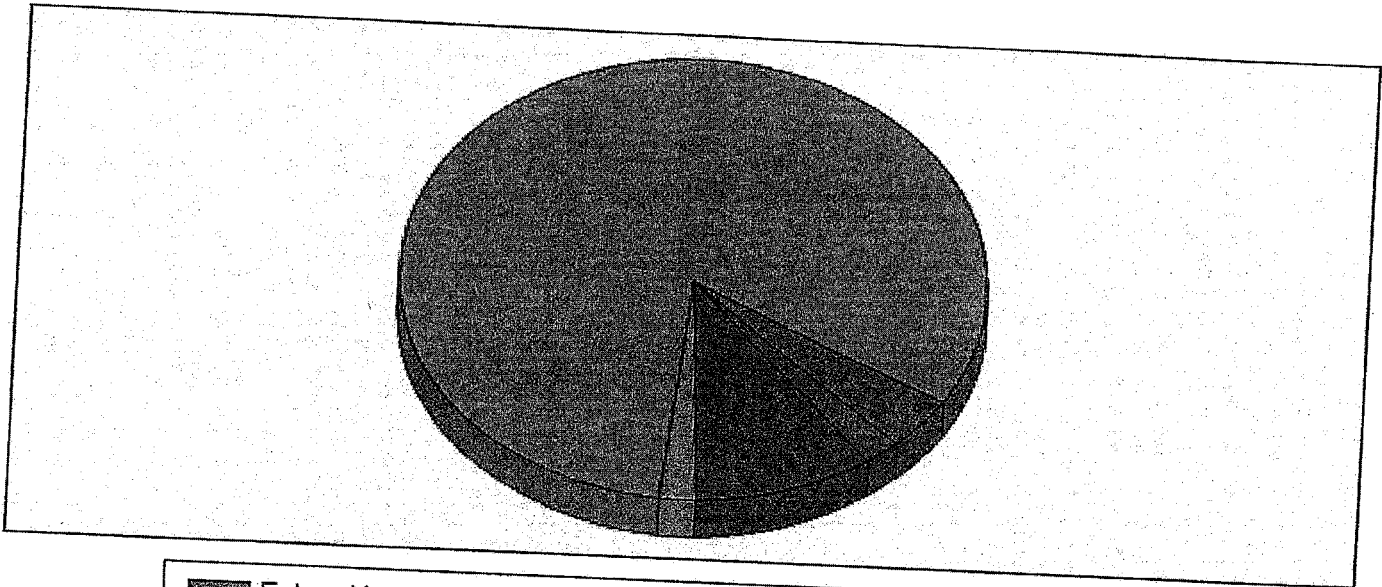
Sparta Fire Department

Sparta, MI



Major Incident Types by Month for Date Range

Start Date: 01/01/2020 | End Date: 01/19/2020



INCIDENT TYPE	JAN	TOTAL
False Alarm & False Call	2	2
Fire	1	1
Good Intent Call	1	1
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	5	5
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	41	41
Total	50	50

Total Year to Date: 50 calls
as of January 19, 2020

Only REVIEWED incidents included