

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the
Sparta Township Board
160 E. Division - Sparta MI 49345
On Line Zoom Meeting 7:00
April 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Dale Bergman.

Members Present: Dale Bergman, Rachel Shangle, Jason Bradford, Chad Momber, Marcy Savage, Bill Goodfellow and Rob Steffens

Members Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Approval of the Bills

Motion to approve payment of the bills by Goodfellow, 2nd by Steffens.

Carried 7-0

2. Township Emergency Powers Resolution

Attorney Eberly said he had emailed an updated resolution, giving emergency decision making power to the Supervisor, a few minutes before the meeting. Most Board members did not have a chance to review it. Shangle suggested a sample resolution from MTA that shares powers with the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer. Goodfellow made a motion to pass resolution 20-06, a resolution conferring emergency powers to the Township Supervisor and to ratify previous emergency actions taken by the Township Supervisor and Other Township Officials. It was seconded by Momber. Savage reminded Bergman all resolutions need a roll call vote. Bergman called for a roll call vote.

Steffens-Yes, Goodfellow-Yes, Momber-Yes, Bradford-Yes, Savage-No, Shangle-No, Bergman-Yes.

Carried 5-2

Savage and Shangle Dissenting

OTHER INFORMATION

Steffens let the Board know that the DNR grant they received for the SRA park is on hold due to the current circumstances.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Goodfellow and 2nd by Shangle.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Savage, Sparta Township Clerk

Requested addendum to Sparta Township Board Minutes of April 9, 2020 (held remotely on ZOOM)

From Board Member Rachel Shangle

- For unknown reasons, I was not able to be heard by other Board members for most of the meeting. I use Zoom often for other meetings and have never had this issue. At least five times, I started to speak, and others talked over me.
- I asked why we were using a different attorney instead of our usual one and was not answered.
- The public was told they could only comment on non-agenda items during public comment time and were never given an opportunity to comment on the agenda items.
- I did not receive the revised resolution prior to the meeting, was not given an opportunity to view it during the meeting, and was asked to vote on a resolution I had not seen.
- I suggested the emergency powers resolution include the supervisor, clerk and treasurer working together. I also suggested if the Board really wanted this power to rest with one person only, it would be better to have an impartial trustee in charge. This was ignored or not heard.
- The motion to adjourn was seconded by Momber, not me; it was hard to tell who said what at any time, because the audience was not muted and made verbal comments throughout the meeting.