

**Minutes of the Sparta Fire Board Meeting
October 22, 2020
Sparta Fire Station**

Present: Bergman (twp-chair), Anderson (twp), Cumings (village), Goodfellow (twp), & VanPatten (village)
Also, present: Chief Olney, Deputy Chief Wood
Absent: Village at large member (replacement for Chad Fisk)
Bergman called the meeting to order @7:05 pm.

Additions to Agenda: None

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: VanPatten to approve the agenda.

Seconded: Cumings

Motion Passed: 5-0

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: Made by VanPatten to approve the September 17, 2020 minutes.

Seconded: Goodfellow

Motion Passed: 5-0

Approval of the bills:

Motion: Made by Cumings to approve September – October 20, 2020 bills.

Seconded: Anderson

Motion Passed: 5-0

Finance Board Update:

Cumings stated that the finance board meet twice since the last board meeting and approved all department invoices. The finance board largest amount time was spend discussing how best to support and fund the purchase of a new fire truck. The operational budget is currently at 56% of the budget through the first 7 months.

Old Business: none

Chief's Report: Chief Olney presented the Chief's report. (see attached). There were 674 calls YTD. The Chief stated there were 3 fire calls and 6 accidents last month.

Chief Olney stated that the fire department has received (2) COVID 19 related grants. The first grant, CARES Act was for \$25,000 which was paid out to all fire fighters & first responders. The second grant was COVID-19 Crisis Fire for \$11,000 which covered ½ of the department payroll for 2 months. Kent County has provided additional COVID related grant funds. Sparta Township has received \$170,000 and the Village of Sparta has received \$33,000 which must be allocated for COVID related costs. Per Bob Whalen, the village will be able to allocate their entire \$33,000 to the Sparta Village Departments. Per Dale Bergman, the township will only be able to allocate a small portion of the funds allocated for the township. However, the township can allocate these funds to the Sparta Fire Department which can utilize these funds for COVID related expenses including payroll for the department. Any additional funds which the township or the fire department can not use can also be allocated to the village which could utilize these funds. Any unutilized funds must be returned to county. Sparta Township will have to review and approve the allocations of the funds.

Chief Olney also stated that there has been no positive exposure or tested positive for COVID in the entire department.

Budget 2021-2020: Chief Olney presented the department's 2021-2020 budget. His budget request is for the same amount as the last past years. The Chief is asking the Village and the Township for the same amount of money for the operational budget as he had requested for the past 2 years. The Chief is asking for an operational budget of \$369,950.00 which is funded by the township's \$243,334 the village \$121,666 and \$4,950 from fees and reimbursements.

Motion: Made by Goodfellow to approve operational budget at \$369,950.00

Seconded: Cumings

Motion Passed: 5-0

Replacement of Engine #3: Chief Olney presented to the board a request to lease/purchase a new fire engine to replace the current 1996 fire engine. A new fire engine purchase is currently in the 2022-2023 Year CIP expenditure. The existing vehicle is 24 years old; maintenance costs for the past 5 years exceed \$24,000 and will continue to go up. The old vehicle has been out of service several times in the past year and parts are sometimes not available or take a long time to acquire. Chief explained that he originally was waiting to replace the vehicle but this opportunity for this new vehicle was too good to pass up. The Chief explained that the new vehicle a Pierce Saber STK 34096 is a new DEMO, never titled but used for demonstrations and presentations to fire departments. The vehicle does have hours and miles on it but comes with a new warranty of 5 years. This vehicle has a 1000-gallon water tank, 1500 GPM pump, 6 passenger and with a 450 HP engine, all ideal for the Sparta Fire Departmental requirements. The final delivered price, including 2 training sessions, lettering, and the additional options that the department required is \$483,128.00 The Chief stated that all the hoses etc. would be removed from the old vehicle and placed on the new vehicle and their should no additional expenses for the new vehicle.

Goodfellow stated that in the past few months the department has purchased the Mason property, thermal cameras, turn out gear, still has to remove the old mason house and remodel the fire station for the drive through entrances. His concern was spending almost \$500K this year. He stated he understood that engine #3 was old but was still doing the job and at some point, a new vehicle would be required.

Cumings stated that in review of the current funds and millage approval, the fact the engine #3 was 24 years old and safety was a concern when using the old vehicle, he'd support a new vehicle.

Anderson stated that the Chief made a great presentation along with the supporting letters as to the safety of the existing 24-year-old engine #3. He was concerned about the urgency in getting a new vehicle at that this time but knows that we do need to replace the existing engine #3.

VanPatten stated that the residents of the township had just renewed the millage requests that are for the purchase of new fire department vehicles. The timing maybe a little early but the vehicle and the costs for the new vehicle make this the opportune time to purchase this vehicle.

Bergman stated that he'd wished that we had more time to review all the options but did agree that we need a new vehicle at some point.

Chief Olney stated that he has revised the CIP budget to reflect the purchase of the new vehicle, move all expenditures for the Mason property and station work out into the 2021-2022 time frames. He also has move the replacement of MED10 out the 2022-2023 time frame which would free up additional capital dollars for the lease /purchase of this new vehicle.

Motion: Made by VanPatten to lease/purchase the new Pierce Engine for \$483,128.00 with a down payment of \$100,000 and 6-year lease/purchase for the remaining balance. (payment of \$1.00 for the final purchase payment)

Seconded: Cumings

Motion Passed: 5-0

Next Meeting Date: November 19th at 7:00 PM in the fire station.

Next Finance Meeting Dates: November 3rd and 17th at 4:00 in the township office.

Public Comment: Shawn Morton stated that on behalf of the entire fire department he thanked the fire board for the purchase of the new fire truck. He stated that the fire fighters do the best they can with what they have to work with.

Eric Buchanan thanked the fire board for taking time to review all the information provided and the decision to purchase a new fire department vehicle.

Bob Whalen commented that he thought it was a solid investment and good idea to purchase this new vehicle.

Motion: Made by VanPatten to adjourn at 8:35 PM

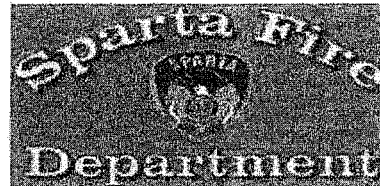
Seconded: Cumings

Motion Passed: 5-0

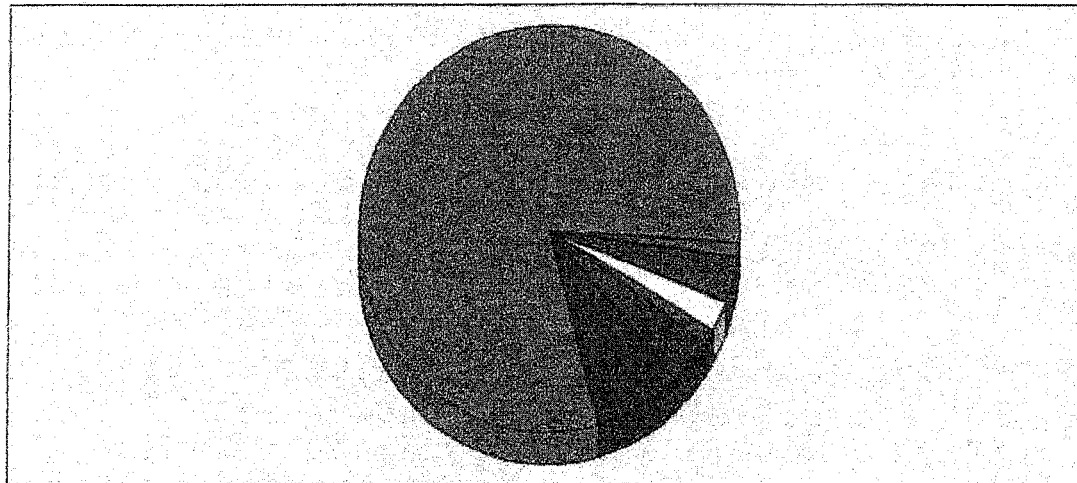
Minutes by Goodfellow 10-23-20

Sparta Fire Department

Sparta, MI



Major Incident Types by Month for Date Range
 Start Date: 09/14/2020 | End Date: 10/18/2020



False Alarm & False Call	Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	Hazardous Condition (No Fire)
Fire	Special Incident Type	Service Call
Good Intent Call		

INCIDENT TYPE	SEP	OCT	TOTAL
False Alarm & False Call	1		1
Fire	3		3
Good Intent Call	1	5	6
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)		3	3
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	31	34	65
Service Call		2	2
Special Incident Type	1		1
Total	37	44	81

Total Runs as of 10-18-2020 : 674

Chiefs Report October 22, 2020

Old Business:

1. None

New Business:

1. Monthly report

a. Fire calls and alarms:

1. Garage Fire – 9 Carrie Street – auto aid from Alpine and Kent City
2. Burnt Furnace belt – 665 13-mile rd. – auto aid from Algoma
3. Fire alarm – Pearl Street
4. Auto Aid on a building fire to Alpine Fire – cancelled enroute

b. Wires and hazardous condition calls:

1. Wire down – 11000 block of Sparta Ave
2. Gas leak – 400 block of Division
3. Gas leak – 16 13-mile

c. Accidents:

1. Alpine and 12-mile – no injuries
2. 200 block of Indian Lakes – no injuries
3. 10-mile and M37 – minor injuries
4. 9600 block of Sparta Ave – two injured
5. M37 and 13-mile – minor injuries
6. 170 block of State Street – minor injury