

Minutes of the Sparta Township Board
Regular Meeting of October 8, 2020, 7 p.m.
Sparta Civic Center, 75 N. Union St., Sparta, MI
& Virtual Via Zoom Media

Present: Township Supervisor Dale Bergman; Township Treasurer Rachel Shangle; Township Clerk Marcy Savage; Trustees Jason Bradford, Bill Goodfellow, Chad Momber, and Rob Steffens

Also Present: Associate Planner Emma Posillico, AICP, of Fresh Coast Planning; Attorney Clifford H. Bloom of Bloom Sluggett, P.C.

Call to Order: Bergman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda: Motion by Goodfellow, second by Shangle to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carries.

Public Comment: Barb Johnson spoke in opposition to the Hidden Prairie Development. She cited the number and density of the homes as the reason she does not believe it is in the best interest of the community.

Approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion by Goodfellow, second by Momber to approve the minutes of September 9, 2020. Motion carries. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Steffens to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carries.

Approval of the Bills: Clerk Savage explained grant monies awarded that will offset some costs for election equipment and technology upgrades. Motion by Shangle, second by Goodfellow to approve the bills as presented. Motion carries.

Planning Commission Recommendation-Hidden Prairie: Clerk Savage recused herself due to a conflict of interest. The Planning Commission recommends adoption of the resolution and ordinance amendment approving the final plans for the development. Board members asked questions of the applicant, and Treasurer Shangle asked for clarification of several items in the resolution. Several residents spoke in opposition to the development. Concerns were the density issue, the safety of the mining operations, problems caused by water runoff and potential problems with on-site water and sewer.

Motion by Goodfellow, second by Momber to approve an ordinance to rezone the Hidden Prairie property to Open Space Planned Unit Development zone district. Roll call vote: Momber-yes, Bradford-no, Shangle-no, Bergman-yes, Goodfellow-yes, Steffens-yes. Motion carries 4-2.

Motion by Goodfellow, second by Momber to approve the resolution permitting the Hidden Prairie development under the agreed to conditions. Roll call vote: Momber-yes, Steffens-yes, Bradford-no, Goodfellow-yes, Shangle-no, Bergman-yes. Motion carries 4-2.

Planning Commission Recommendation-Farm Labor Housing: Attorney Bloom is working with state agencies on changes to the proposed ordinance. A draft will be presented to the Board prior to review by the Planning Commission.

Zoom Policy: Attorney Bloom is preparing a draft. Item is tabled by Board consensus until the draft is completed.

Minute Taking and Expenditure: Clerk Savage proposed hiring a recording secretary to take minutes at the Township Board meetings. Motion by Shangle, second by Savage to contract Jan Redding as recording secretary with a wage of \$25.00 per hour. Motion carries 7-0.

Computer Services Quote: Silver Lining Computer Services prepared a quote for equipment that would expand the capabilities for using the remote meeting platforms, such as Zoom. If the equipment was installed in the Civic Center it could potentially be used by other organizations. Board consensus to table this item and discuss with the Village.

Santa House Rental: Representatives from City Church proposed their renting the Santa House to be used for Sunday morning youth classes. The Board agreed and set the rental fee at \$10.00 per week with a \$100.00 deposit.

Informational Items: Planner Emma Posillico will be resigning, as she will be moving. Zoning Administrator, Lindsay Mohr will be taking over her duties.

Ottawa County Conservation District is requesting support from the Township for a project in the Crockery Creek Watershed. No action taken.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redding, Recording Secretary