

Minutes of the Sparta Township Board
Regular Meeting of November 12, 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: Attorney Clifford H. Bloom of Bloom Sluggett, P.C. via Zoom

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 Steffens, second by Momber to approve the agenda with amendments. Motion carries.

Public Comment: Kristi Dougan spoke in support of all the workers involved with the Presidential election, and encouraged the Board to consider additional pay available through the CARES Act grant.

Approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion by Goodfellow, second by Savage to approve the minutes of October 8, 2020. Motion carries. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Momber to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carries.

Approval of the Bills: Clerk Savage explained bills for boiler work done at the library and additional back pay owed to Mead Services due to an error in billing. Motion by Shangle, second by Bradford to approve the bills as presented. Motion carries.

Lawncare/Sexton Wages: Motion by Goodfellow, second by Bradford to approve a 3 year contract with Mead Services for lawn maintenance. Motion carries unanimously. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Shangle to approve a 3 year contract with Mead Services for grave digging, and to increase sexton's salary to \$9500 per year. Motion carries unanimously.

Zoom Policy: Attorney Bloom presented a draft policy for conducting virtual meetings. There was a discussion of recordings of the meetings, and retention of those recordings. Bloom will make revisions and present a new draft prior to the next meeting.

Farm Labor Housing: A draft amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that regulates farm labor housing was reviewed. Board members presented concerns about some of the regulations. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Shangle that the draft be returned to the Planning Commission, and another public hearing should be held. Motion carries unanimously.

Computer Services Quote: A quote to provide equipment that would expand and improve the capabilities for holding remote meetings was reviewed. Board consensus was for Supervisor Bergman to get more information and request additional quotes.

Review of PUD/OSN Ordinance: Motion by Savage, second by Momber to request Planning Commission review the current regulations for Planned Unit/Open Space Developments. It was recommended they review regulations of neighboring townships. Motion carries unanimously.

Utility Trailer Purchase: Clerk Savage informed Board members about the trailer purchased for election

administration. The purchase was made using a portion of the CARES Act grant.

Library Request: Sparta Library Representative, Lois Lovell, presented a request for reimbursement from CARES Act grant money for PPE purchases made. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Savage to grant the request. Motion carries unanimously.

COVID-19 Policy: A resolution establishing rules for conducting meetings during the COVID-19 emergency was presented. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Bradford to adopt with corrections. Duplicate entries in Section 4 were removed, and language in Section 6 will be revised to clarify that persons will only be banned until they are found to be in compliance with all applicable regulations. Motion carries unanimously.

Planning Commission Representative: Motion by Shangle, second Savage to appoint Barb Johnson as Board Representative to the Planning Commission, subject to certification of the election. Motion carries unanimously.

Election Worker Pay: Clerk Savage proposed additional pay for election workers due to the hazardous and unusual circumstances of this election. This cost qualifies for coverage by the CARES Act grant monies. Attorney Bloom had some concerns about compensation regulations and asked to check prior to finalizing the request. Motion by Shangle, second by Bradford to approve the additional pay contingent upon receipt of information from Attorney Bloom. Motion carries 5-2, with Goodfellow and Bergman opposed.

Budget Amendment: Motion by Goodfellow, second by Shangle to add a line item to the budget for revenue generated by rental of the Santa House (approximately \$500 per year). Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comment: Kristi Dougan again urged the Board to recognize the service of election workers during this pandemic. A representative of the Michigan Immigrants Rights Center spoke regarding the ordinance related to farm labor housing. It was recommended her comments be directed to the Planning Commission at their public hearing for the amendment. Karen Bergman spoke about her concerns about the accessibility of virtual meetings and the retention of recordings of those meetings.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redding, Recording Secretary