

Minutes of the Sparta Township Board
Regular Meeting of December 10, 2020, 7 p.m.
Virtual Via Zoom Media

Present: Township Supervisor Dale Bergman; Township Treasurer Rachel Shangle; Township Clerk Marcy Savage; Trustees Jason Bradford (joined at 7:17), Bill Goodfellow, Barb Johnson, and Rob Steffens

Also Present: Attorney Clifford H. Bloom of Bloom Sluggett, P.C.

Call to Order: Bergman called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 with addition of item 11-Delinquent Personal Property Tax. Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comment: IT specialist, Ken Shangle, reported that due to lack of digital storage space some older recordings of Township meetings will be deleted.

Approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Motion by Goodfellow, second by Savage to approve the minutes of November 12, 2020. Motion carries. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Steffens to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Approval of the Bills: Motion by Steffens, second by Shangle to approve the bills as presented. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

Drain Petition-Ken Yonker, Kent County Drain Commissioner, presented information on a petition for maintenance and improvements to be done on what will be the consolidated drain district known as Nash Creek Intercounty Drain. It is believed that the work is necessary to help prevent further erosion along the drain, and flooding in the Village. He requested support from the Township, and adoption of a resolution authorizing the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the petition to begin the process. It is expected that the project will take 2-3 years for completion. Motion by Shangle, second by Johnson to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

Policy Regarding Virtual Meetings-there was discussion of the updated draft, specifically the retention policy for recordings, and it was the consensus of the Board that the matter be tabled until the next meeting.

Election Hazard Pay-Attorney Bloom presented his legal opinion that the proposed additional wages for election workers and elected officials, as part of the CARES Act grant for hazard pay, was not authorized as it would have been a retroactive payment.

Billing Policy for Zoning Hearing Expenses-there was discussion as to whether or not the Township should bear the full financial responsibility for the publication of notices related to the Hidden Prairie development. Motion by Johnson, second by Bradford that due to the extraordinary and unusual circumstances of this project, which increased the publication costs beyond the customary amount, the applicant is responsible for those costs. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote, with Clerk Savage abstaining.

Zoom Equipment-Quotes for equipment and upgrades to help facilitate virtual meetings were reviewed. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Bradford, to proceed with purchases presented in the quote from Dan Salas of \$1241. It was recommended that additional equipment be included. Tripods and Wi-Fi extenders will be added to the order, as needed, with a not to exceed amount of \$600. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

Fire Department Report-an update was presented by Chief Olney on the purchase of property adjacent to the Fire Department and a new truck. The additional property will provide space needed for parking and truck turnaround. The truck will replace a 1996 model that will be sold. Olney verified that use of millage money for the property purchase was approved by the auditor and attorney.

CARES Act Funding-Chief Olney presented the list of additional expenses for the Fire Department related to Covid-19, and requested reimbursement through the grant funds. Clerk Savage presented expenses related to office operation and election, and also requested approval for grant funds. Motion by Shangle, second by Steffens to approve the expenses as presented, and to allow additional qualified expenses to be added by Supervisor Bergman, Clerk Savage or Chief Olney prior to the deadline for submission. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

ZBA Appointments-Motion by Steffens, second by Bradford to reappoint Terry Jost for a 3 year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote. Motion by Bradford, second by Shangle to reappoint Keith Beuschel to a 3 year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote. Term is from September 2020 to September 2023.

Delinquent Personal Property Tax-Motion by Shangle, second by Savage to strike from the tax roll personal property taxes which have been delinquent for 5 years and are noncollectable. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

Other Business/Information-Motion by Shangle, support by Johnson to authorize purchase of 3 air purifiers to install in existing units. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

Steffens presented information on work being done at the ball fields.

Public Comment-one resident thanked the Board for doing a good job, and wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redding, Recording Secretary