

Minutes of the Sparta Township Board
Regular Meeting of March 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Sparta Civic Center and Virtual Via Zoom Media

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

Also Present: IT Specialist Ken Shangle, Attorney Cliff Bloom and Recording Secretary Jan Redding

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 Steffens to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comment- Sparta Library director Lois Lovell is retiring, and introduced her replacement, Merri Jo Tuinstra.

Approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report- Motion by Goodfellow, second by Johnson to approve the minutes of February 11, 2021. Motion carries unanimously. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Steffens to approve the special meeting minutes of February 25, 2021. Motion carries unanimously. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Steffens to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Budget Public Hearing-Supervisor Bergman presented general information on the budget structure. Karen Bergman, Krisiti Duggan, Betsy Pelkey, Marybeth Dame and Don Doyle spoke regarding the salary proposals in the budget. Public hearing was closed at 7:44 p.m.

Approval of the Bills- Motion by Steffens, second by Goodfellow to approve the bills as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Inter-local Assessing Agreement-motion by Goodfellow, second by Shangle to approve an agreement with Kent County to provide assessing services to Sparta Township if needed under emergency or special circumstances. Motion carries unanimously.

Poverty Exemption Resolution-motion by Goodfellow, second by Shangle to adopt Poverty Exemption Resolution 21-6 as presented. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

175th Anniversary-Elizabeth Morse with the DDA spoke about plans for Sparta's 175th anniversary celebration. One proposal is that a mural be commissioned for the side of the Township office building. Motion by Johnson, second by Savage, that \$4750 out of the current year's budget be set aside to help with funding the project. Motion carries unanimously.

Salary Resolutions-there was discussion of whether or not to grant salary increases for Board members. The possibility of creating a Compensation Commission to make recommendations for Board salaries was discussed. Motion by Goodfellow to create a Compensation Commission. There was no support for the motion.

Motion by Shangle, second by Steffens to approve Resolution 21-3 setting Supervisor salary at \$24,993.19. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Shangle, second by Bradford to amend and approve Resolution 21-4 setting the Clerk salary at \$42,000. Motion is not approved in a 5-2 vote. Motion by Bradford, second by Johnson to amend and approve Resolution 21-4 setting the Clerk salary at \$40,000. Motion passes 5-2.

Motion by Savage, second by Johnson to amend approve Resolution 21-5 setting the Treasurer salary at \$37,740. Following discussion, the motion was amended to approve the Resolution without amendment. The Treasurer salary will remain at \$37,000. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

Budget Approval-motion by Steffens, second by Johnson to approve the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 with the salary amounts in the adopted resolutions. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

Historical Commission-openings on the Commission were discussed. Motion by Shangle, support by Savage to appoint Bob Shangle to fill the term that expires in 2022. Motion carries unanimously.

Farm Labor Housing Ordinance-the zoning ordinance amendment regulating housing for farm labor was reviewed. It was the consensus of the Board there were several sections that need amending. Attorney Bloom will draft some optional changes that can be reviewed at the next meeting.

Community Email Policy-the list will provide a means of communication with residents. There was discussion of how the list will be updated and maintained. Motion by Savage, second by Shangle to adopt the policy as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Library Maintenance-motion by Steffens, second by Shangle to accept the proposal by Water Works for landscaping services at the Library. Motion carries unanimously.

Informational Items-A court hearing is scheduled on March 26 on the Hidden Prairie case. It will be held via Zoom and more information will be provided when it is available.

Bob Whalen spoke on the plans for opening the Sports Park. No definite dates are available at this time.

Public Comment-

Jayne Heath, member of the Historical Commission tried to comment via Zoom, but was unable to communicate due to poor connection.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redding, Recording Secretary