

Minutes of the Sparta Township Board
Regular Meeting of May 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Sparta Civic Center, 75 N. Union St., Sparta, Michigan 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: Attorney Cliff Bloom, IT Specialist Ken Shangle, 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- None

Approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report- Motion by Shangle, second by Johnson to approve the minutes of April 8, 2021. Motion carries unanimously. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Bradford to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021. Motion carries unanimously. Motion by Goodfellow, second by Steffens to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carries unanimously. Clerk Savage asked the Board for direction on dispersing of the grant money. Motion by Shangle, support by Johnson to disperse monies for the fire department and library. Motion carries unanimously.

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

Historical Commission Report-Mike Metzger presented candidates to fill positions on the Historical Commission. Motion by Steffens, second by Shangle to reappoint Adele Bradford. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion by Savage, second by Johnson to reappoint Jim Tuinstra. Motion carries unanimously. Motion by Savage, second by Johnson to appoint Annalicia Barnum. Motion carries unanimously.

There was consensus of the Board members to approve some minor changes to the Historical Commission bylaws.

Jamie Brooks will be working on Grand Marshall selection for Town and Country Days parade, and on 175th Celebration. Larry Carter will be coordinating the Memorial Day parade with the American Legion. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Research Center. Notices will be posted at the Township offices. Locks for the Museum and Research Center have been rekeyed. A cost analysis is be done on utility costs. Arrangements are being made to replace the damaged flag pole and have it installed with a light. There is insurance money to cover some of the costs. A policy on gift shop sales will be reviewed.

Motion by Johnson, second by Bradford to install a Knox Box at the museum at a cost of not to exceed \$500. This will allow for entrance of emergency personnel. Motion carries unanimously.

Farm Labor Housing-The Board discussed the proposed amendments. Concerns included what zone districts were appropriate for farm labor housing and at what density. Attorney Bloom will revise the draft and present it for next month's meeting.

Fairplains Cemetery-Bergman, Steffens, and Goodfellow will for a subcommittee and look into possible expansion of the cemetery property.

Closed Session-Motion by Shangle, second by Bradford to enter closed session at 8:30 for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

South Sparta (Hidden Prairie) Lawsuit-Attorney Bloom presented the settlement agreement in the lawsuit regarding the Hidden Prairie development. Shangle presented her objections to the agreement. Motion by

Goodfellow, second by Steffens to approve the settlement. Motion carries with 5 – 2 roll call vote. Savage and Shangle vote no.

Informational Items- there was discussion of the new Sports Park. There are some concerns over parking, and safety for walkers and bike riders.

Clerk Savage and Deputy Pelkey reported on their attendance at the International Institute of Municipal Clerks held in Grand Rapids, and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redding, Recording Secretary