

Minutes of the Sparta Township Board
Regular Meeting of July 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Sparta Township Hall 160 East Division St., Sparta, MI and virtual via Zoom

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, 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 Steffens, second by Shangle to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

Public Comment- Comments were taken from one person in opposition to the Hidden Prairie development.

Approval of the Minutes and Treasurer's Report-

Motion by Steffens, second by Johnson to approve the minutes of June 10, 2021. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion by Shangle, second by Johnson to approve the minutes of June 24, 2021 with the following corrections:

1. The order of voting in the roll call vote should reflect that the Supervisor voted last, in compliance with Robert's Rules of Order.
2. Addition to include opinion of Township Attorney Bloom that any endorsements made by Township Board members in regards to elections should not include their title as Township officials.

Motion carries unanimously.

Motion by Goodfellow, second by Savage 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 with the inclusion of 2 invoices received after Board packets had been prepared. Motion carries unanimously.

Road Closure-motion by Goodfellow, second by Johnson to approve the request to close a portion of Division and 14 Mile roads on September 6 for the Camp Lake Association 5K run. Motion carries unanimously.

Request for Funds-Sue Blackall-it was the consensus of the Board that they confirm support for funding of a project to plant trees and wildflowers.

Mural Quotes-motion by Shangle, second by Savage to commission artist Sotir Davidhi to create a mural commemorating the 175th anniversary of Sparta. Motion carries unanimously. The Historical Commission will be consulted regarding which historical events should be included.

A concept drawing will be submitted for approval by Bergman, Savage and Shangle in consultation with the rest of the Board members.

Library Kitchenette-table until the next Board meeting

Library Soffet Painting-table until the next Board meeting

ARPA Funds-there was discussion of the procedures for requesting funds through the American Rescue Plan, and also projects that would qualify for funding. Motion by Johnson, second by Shangle to submit the application indicating the Board's interest in participating. Monies will then be set aside for the Township that can be applied for at a later date. Additional information is needed regarding projects that would qualify for reimbursement. Shangle will prepare the application. Motion carries unanimously.

Principles of Governance-motion by Shangle, second by Savage, to adopt the "Principles of Governance" as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Zoom Meeting Policy-there was discussion of whether or not to continue offering Board meetings virtually via Zoom. It was the consensus of the Board that it be continued for now and be reviewed again at a later date.

Migrant Ordinance-due to a missed deadline it was necessary to re-adopt the Migrant Housing ordinance that was approved at the last meeting. Motion by Shangle, second by Johnson to approve. Motion carries unanimously.

PUD Ordinance-there was discussion of a possible moratorium on accepting applications for PUDs (Planned Unit Developments) until after the revisions are made from the Planning Commission to the ordinance. Discussion will continue at the next Planning Commission meeting with Attorney Bloom being available for consultation.

Informational Items- Steffens updated the Board on projects at the sports park.

Public Comment-the property on Ecklund Street offered to the Township for purchase was discussed. No action by the Board has been taken regarding the offer.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redding, Recording Secretary