

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the
Sparta Township Board
160 E Division St – Sparta, MI 49345
January 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. by Supervisor Dale Bergman.

Members Present: Dale Bergman, Sue Bitely, John Fyneweever, Bill Goodfellow, Bob Maier,
Rachel Shangle, and Rob Steffens

Members Absent: None

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE BUSINESS OR CONSENT AGENDA

None. Motion to approve by Maier, seconded by Shangle.

Carried 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Martin Super, Sparta Village Manager, came to explain the news article in the Grand Rapids Press and the North Kent Advance Newspapers regarding the relationship between the Village and Township. Contrary to the way the article was written, he said he had not indicated any hostility between the two municipalities.

Mr. Super went on to suggest that in the future the Village and Township consider a joint meeting before CDBG allocations are committed. He also discussed the possibility of work being done on the bridge between Balyeat Field and the Village Parking lot and the possibility of CDBG funds being used for that. In further discussion, Mr. Super informed the township board that The Village of Sparta has withdrawn from Grand Valley Metro Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Shangle, seconded by Goodfellow to approve the Consent Agenda Items:
(Minutes of Dec. 8, 2011, Special Meeting Minutes of Dec. 14, 2011, Treasurer's Report and Resolution 12-01)

Carried 7-0

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of the Bills

Motion by Maier, seconded by Shangle to approve the bills.

Carried 7-0

Bitely informed the board that the bill for Grand Valley Metro Council was due in the amount of \$2,061.00. After discussion Goodfellow made the motion to withdraw from Grand Valley Metro Council, seconded by Fyneweever.

Carried 5-2

Bergman & Steffens dissenting

Bitely will investigate to see what the process is for withdrawing.

Resident/Non-resident Clarification for Cemetery Fees

Shangle explained the current grave pricing for residents and non- residents. There has been some discrepancy lately as to the qualification of a "resident". Bitely read the definition of a resident according to the dictionary. Resident: One who dwells permanently or continuously; occupy a place as one's legal domicile. Goodfellow remarked that a resident would be someone who lives in the township, currently residing in Sparta. Fyneweever asked if it could be someone who lives in the township and also include taxpayers. Shangle made a motion that the \$200 fee should apply to residents and property owners, seconded by Fyneweever. **Carried 7-0**

Bitely also asked for clarification for the instances when someone transfers ownership of a grave. It was the consensus of the board that anytime a grave changes ownership there should be a \$75.00 charge per individual grave, not per lot.

Board of Review Dates

Bergman submitted the Board of Review meeting dates proposed by the Board of Review:

Tuesday, March 6, 2012	8 a.m. until adjournment	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 12, 2012	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Public Hearing, (By Appointment Only)

Tuesday, March 13, 2012	1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.	Public Hearing (By Appointment Only)
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Motion by Shangle to approve the dates and times submitted by the Board of Review, seconded by Steffens
Carried 7-0

Maintenance Agreements

Bitely presented the maintenance agreement from Omega, our Computer technical support. Fifteen hours of block time is \$1,365 (same as last year). Motion by Shangle to purchase the agreement, seconded by Steffens. **Carried 7-0**

Bitely presented the maintenance agreement from Tyler Technologies, the computer software support for the Accounts Payable, Payroll, and General Ledger. The amounts total \$1,594 for all three programs used by the township (same amount charged last year). Motion by Maier and seconded by Shangle to purchase the agreement. **Carried 7-0**

Other Informational Items

Bergman reported on the progress of the attorney letter regarding the library boiler situation, as discussed last month. Scott Bultman helped draft a letter to submit to the attorney for informational purposes. The Township's attorney, Cliff Bloom with Law Weathers, informed us that there was a conflict of interest and could not represent us in this case. He had recommended others, Jim Scales and Scott Smith. They also reported having a conflict of interest. Scott Smith, of Clark Hill, said that they represent Ferguson Supply, which may be the conflict of interest, but said he would check to see if it would be beneficial to have Ferguson Supply and Sparta Township work together on the matter.

The Board set the date for the Budget Workshop for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 as March 5, 2012 at 5 P.M.

Shangle shared that BS&A had sent a report concerning activity on the website and there were 836 hits for the last quarter. That saves the office approximately 836 phone calls they would otherwise receive.

Shangle reported that the committee updating the Recreation Plan had a public meeting on January 5th.

If any township board member has any input regarding this committee they should notify Elizabeth Morse of the DDA with any comments.

Maier shared information from The Library Board Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2011. He related some of the projects that the library was spending money on and also that the library board was aware of a possible decrease in funds from the township next fiscal year.

Bergman reported that Fritz Wahlfield had been in to ask for a rezoning from R1 to C2. His property is located on the North West corner of 10 Mile and Alpine Ave. (Across from the Bow Tie Tavern, where it is zoned C-2 in Alpine Township.

Goodfellow asked what the outcome was of the property on O'Connor Rd that had been a possible donation offer from the property owners. Bergman noted that the property instead may be sold to a nearby neighbor.

Public Comments – None

Adjournment – Motion by Shangle, seconded by Goodfellow to adjourn at 8:30 P.M. **Carried 7-0**

Respectfully Submitted:
Sue Bitely, Sparta Township Clerk