

Meeting of the Sparta Township Board
Sparta Township Hall 160 East Division Street, Sparta, Mi. 49345
Watch meeting Live @ [Sparta Township - YouTube](#)

February 12th, 2026

7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Approval of Minutes – January 8th, 2026
2. Treasurer's Report's
3. Building Department Monthly Report

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Bills
2. Approval of Dates for Board of Review: March 9th, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., March 10th, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
3. Budget Workshop Meeting Date and Time
4. Budget Amendments

OTHER INFORMATIONAL

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting of Sparta Township Board
Sparta Township Hall - 160 E Division St - Sparta MI 49345
Watch Meeting live @ Sparta Township - YouTube
January 8th, 2026 - 7pm

Present: Supervisor Dale Bergman, Clerk Marcy Savage, Treasurer Ashley Johnson, Trustee Jason Bradford, Bill Goodfellow, Barb Johnson, and Rob Steffens.

Also present: Historical Society Chairman Doug Pinckey, Library Director MerriJo Tuinstra, Village Council Member Robert Carlstrom and Brenda Breybook, and Village President Robert Whalen, Village Manager James Lower and Recording Secretary Sarah Fischer.

Absent: None

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Additions or corrections to the agenda:** Supervisor Dale Bergman added **Township Official's Conduct** to the meeting agenda at the request of Jim Lower, Village of Sparta Manager.
4. **Public Comment for agenda items:** None.
5. **Approval of minutes and treasurer's report:**
 - a. **Approval of minutes of December 11th, 2025:** Motion by Barb Johnson with a second by Rob Steffens. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Bill Goodfellow with a second by Barb Johnson. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
 - c. **Building Department Monthly Report:** *Informational only.* Building Department Monthly and Year-End report provided.
6. **Business items:**
 - a. **Approval of Bills:** Motion by Rob Steffens with a second by Ashley Johnson. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
 - b. **Spring Clean-Up Days:** Sparta Township is planning to host a Spring Clean-Up Day for residents at no cost. Rex Baker has volunteered to use his property located on Prospect Street in Sparta for the event. The proposed dates and times are Friday, April 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Service will close promptly at the designated end times; therefore, it is critical that residents are aware they must be through the line by

the posted closing time. Anyone waiting in line at the time of closure will not be serviced.

A map was provided, and details were discussed regarding acceptable drop-off items, as well as designated staging, parking, and waiting areas. Additional discussion will take place with Jim Lower to determine how best to accommodate and manage traffic flow during the event's operating hours. Marcy Savage made a motion to proceed with the Spring Clean-Up Day event and to approve all information and costs as discussed. The motion was seconded by Rob Steffens and passed unanimously, with all members in favor.

- c. **Appointment to the Fire Authority:** As part of finalizing the Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State following approval of the Fire Authority, the board addressed the required appointment of authority members. Current fire board members were reappointed to serve as members of the new authority. The board made a motion to approve the appointment of Dale Bergman, Bill Goodfellow, and Dean Anderson to the Fire Authority. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.
- d. **Berger Property Purchase:** The board discussed a potential purchase of land owned by Nancy Burgerer, located behind Greenwood Cemetery, for cemetery expansion. The property is approximately three-quarters of an acre, fully wooded, and offered to the township at its current market value. While the land could support future burial needs, the board noted timing concerns related to budgeting and uncertainty around future cityhood. Since there is no urgency from the seller, the board agreed to express interest but defer any decision until the upcoming budget review.
- e. **Township Official's Conduct:** Jim Lower, Sparta Village Manager, appeared before the board to address concerns regarding the distribution of information and communications related to Village projects, funding, and governance. He provided context on recent meetings, shared documentation and security footage, and highlighted instances of potentially misleading information being shared publicly and privately. The discussion included clarification of property ownership, grant funding, and Village decision-making processes, as well as observations of broader patterns of behavior affecting Village -Township relations.

The board listened to the concerns presented and acknowledged the points raised. They agreed to take the matter into consideration and to explore the

potential development of formal codes of conduct or policies governing the behavior of board members and staff.

OTHER INFORMATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

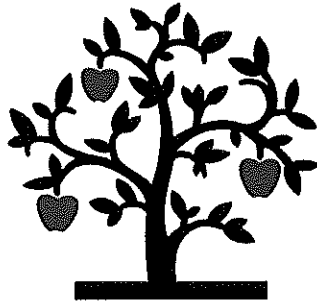
- Jackie Landon, a new Sparta Township resident at 3957 15 Mile Road and co-owner of Native Edge, a landscape and environmental firm, addressed the board regarding concerns about data centers. Drawing on her background in aquatic biology, she highlighted potential negative impacts of data centers, including high water and energy usage, limited long-term job creation, and risks to local water quality and public health. She cited examples from other communities to illustrate these concerns, including contamination risks and strain on aquifers.

Ms. Landon suggested that the township proactively seeks expert guidance and consider measures such as a temporary moratorium on data center approvals to allow time for community discussion and planning. She offered resources from nonprofit organizations and other townships as examples of approaches that could help Sparta manage potential environmental and resource impacts. She encouraged ongoing engagement and careful consideration before data centers are introduced to the area.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 7:46pm EST by Marcy Savage with a second by Barb Johnson. The motion passed unanimously, with all members in favor.

Submitted by: Sarah Fischer

Reviewed by: Marcy Savage



SPARTA TOWNSHIP

160 E. Division St, Sparta MI 49345
(616) 887-8863 Fax (616) 887-3823
www.spartatownship.org

Notice

DATE POSTED: FEBRUARY 10, 2026

REASON: 2026 March Sessions – Schedule and Information

Please be advised that the following is the schedule for the March Board of Review sessions. All appearances require an appointment and will be held at the Sparta Township Office at 160 E. Division Street, Sparta, MI. Please call 616-887-8863 to make an appointment. *As much as possible, social distancing will be exercised.* The schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Comments
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	8:00 a.m. to Adjournment	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2026	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Public Hearings (By Appointment)
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Public Hearings (By Appointment)

The anticipated ratios and factors are:

Property Classification	Ratio (%)	Factor
Agricultural	50.00	1.0000
Commercial	50.00	1.0000
Developmental	50.00	1.0000
Industrial	50.00	1.0000
Residential	50.00	1.0000
Personal Property	50.00	1.0000

Clifford A. Turner, Assessor

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Calculations as of 03/31/2026

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2024-25 ACTIVITY	2025-26 AMENDED BUDGET	2025-26 ACTIVITY THRU 03/31/26	2026-27 REQUESTED BUDGET
ESTIMATED REVENUES					
Dept 000					
101-000-402.000	TWP. OPERATING MILLAGE	355,904.16	367,000.00	2,225.11	
101-000-403.000	FIRE MILLAGE #1	86,845.58	89,500.00	549.16	
101-000-404.000	FIRE MILLAGE #2	90,144.24	93,000.00	558.24	
101-000-405.000	LIBRARY MILLAGE		93,000.00	564.04	
101-000-411.001	DELINQUENT TWP OPER MILL		10,000.00	10,665.69	
101-000-411.002	DELINQUENT FIRE MILLAGE		2,500.00	2,602.93	
101-000-411.003	DELINQUENT FIRE MILLAGE		2,500.00	2,701.90	
101-000-411.004	DELINQUENT LIBRARY MILLA		2,500.00	2,701.90	
101-000-411.005	DELINQUENT ADMIN FEE		2,000.00	2,507.68	
101-000-434.000	MOBILE HOME TAX	2,980.50	3,200.00	2,106.50	
101-000-445.000	PENALTIES & INT. ON TAXE	8,047.61	2,000.00	189.30	
101-000-447.000	ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	133,994.11	136,000.00	226.43	
101-000-448.000	SUMMER COLLECTION FEE	13,779.50	15,000.00	13,874.00	
101-000-476.001	BLDG PERMITS	23,566.00	30,000.00	25,890.00	
101-000-476.002	MECH PERMITS	11,290.00	15,000.00	8,435.00	
101-000-476.003	ELEC PERMITS	9,607.00	11,000.00	8,176.00	
101-000-476.004	PLUMBING PERMITS	5,713.00	7,500.00	5,916.00	
101-000-477.000	FRANCHISE FEES	47,881.55	53,000.00	32,666.71	
101-000-490.000	PLANNING & ZONING APPLIC	3,750.00	6,000.00	2,725.00	
101-000-491.000	Zoning Permits	1,625.00	3,000.00	1,025.00	
101-000-528.000	FEDERAL GRANTS	84,489.83	8,105.00	8,105.00	
101-000-546.000	METRO ACT MONEY	9,077.37	11,854.08	11,854.08	
101-000-573.000	LSCA SHARE (PER PROPTAX	78,944.16	51,000.00	27,988.93	
101-000-574.000	STATE SHARED REVENUE	556,145.00	558,000.00	473,274.35	
101-000-606.000	LAND DIVISION FEES	1,600.00	1,000.00	2,200.00	
101-000-607.000	DOG LICENSES REVENUE	19.20			
101-000-628.000	BURIALS	12,750.00	13,000.00	8,750.00	
101-000-642.000	SALE OF GRAVES	12,800.00	8,000.00	6,500.00	
101-000-645.000	SALE OF ZONING BOOKS & M		5.00		
101-000-665.000	INTEREST	50,955.87	25,000.00	12,306.49	
101-000-667.000	RENT	125.00	100.00	100.00	

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ESTIMATED REVENUES					
Dept 000					
101-000-675.000	MISC	386.39	10,500.00	10,067.19	
101-000-675.001	ELECTION REIMBURSEMENTS	27,321.24	18,000.00	9,434.04	
101-000-675.004	REFLECTIVE SIGNS	90.00	100.00	95.00	
101-000-675.006	SEWER	1,892.86	2,200.00	2,437.41	
101-000-675.007	FOIA REQUEST/ COPIES/ VO	218.75	500.00	548.19	
101-000-675.009	STREET LIGHTS	81.74	100.00	98.95	
101-000-699.000	TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FU		580,000.00		
Totals for dept 000 -		1,632,025.66	2,231,164.08	700,066.22	
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		1,632,025.66	2,231,164.08	700,066.22	

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2024-25 ACTIVITY	2025-26 AMENDED BUDGET	2025-26 ACTIVITY THRU 03/31/26	2026-27 REQUESTED BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS					
Dept 101 - TWP. BD.					
101-101-702.001	TRUSTEES SALARY	5,425.00	9,500.00		
101-101-715.000	FICA	310.97	500.00		
101-101-956.000	REIMB		300.00		
	Totals for dept 101 - TWP. BD.	5,735.97	10,300.00		
Dept 171 - SUPERVISOR					
101-171-702.001	SUPERVISOR SALARY	28,119.00	28,962.57	24,135.50	
101-171-715.000	FICA	2,151.10	2,500.00	1,841.78	
101-171-956.000	REIMB	112.46	150.00	25.90	
	Totals for dept 171 - SUPERVISOR	30,382.56	31,612.57	26,003.18	
Dept 215 - CLERK					
101-215-702.001	CLERKS SALARY	47,874.96	49,311.25	41,092.70	
101-215-702.002	ASSIST CLERK SALARY	30,627.75	26,000.00	23,743.56	
101-215-715.000	FICA	6,005.49	6,500.00	4,959.99	
101-215-956.000	REIMB	480.66	500.00	399.16	
	Totals for dept 215 - CLERK	84,988.86	82,311.25	70,195.41	
Dept 223 - AUDITORS					
101-223-705.000	AUDIT	7,200.00	7,500.00	7,325.00	
	Totals for dept 223 - AUDITORS	7,200.00	7,500.00	7,325.00	
Dept 226 - ATTORNEY SERVICES					
101-226-826.000	TWP ATTORNEY FEES	29,652.19	50,000.00	37,561.10	
101-226-826.001	ADDITIONAL ATTORNEY FEES	6,043.50	8,000.00	847.50	
	Totals for dept 226 - ATTORNEY SERVICES	35,695.69	58,000.00	38,408.60	
Dept 247 - BOARD OF REVIEW					
101-247-702.001	BOARD OF REVIEW SALARY	2,040.00	2,000.00		
101-247-715.000	FICA	156.07	200.00		
	Totals for dept 247 - BOARD OF REVIEW	2,196.07	2,200.00		
Dept 253 - TREASURER					
101-253-702.001	TREASURERS SALARY	41,832.13	42,998.38	35,832.00	
101-253-702.002	ASSIST TREASURERS SALARY	15,151.40	27,000.00	17,325.00	
101-253-715.000	FICA	4,359.24	5,000.00	4,055.06	
101-253-956.000	REIMB	716.80	800.00	(774.72)	
	Totals for dept 253 - TREASURER	62,059.57	75,798.38	56,437.34	
Dept 257 - ASSESSOR					
101-257-715.000	FICA	369.19	600.00	278.91	
101-257-823.000	ASSESSOR	61,232.00	65,000.00	53,565.00	
101-257-823.001	ASSISTANT ASSESSOR	4,826.26	5,000.00	3,646.24	

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APPROPRIATIONS					
Dept 257 - ASSESSOR					
Totals for dept 257 - ASSESSOR		66,427.45	70,600.00	57,490.15	
Dept 261 - ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES					
101-261-880.000	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	26,614.73	10,000.00	10,171.20	
101-261-900.000	PUBLISHING OF LEGALS	7,315.14	7,000.00	2,356.82	4500.00
101-261-901.000	PRINTING & TAX SERVICES	5,531.53	6,000.00	6,137.40	
101-261-910.000	INSURANCE & BONDS	20,358.80	18,000.00	28,332.35	28,332.35
101-261-956.000	REIMB	896.16	1,500.00	939.48	
101-261-985.000	DUES	7,838.00	8,500.00	8,004.54	
101-261-988.000	EDUCATION	3,807.63	6,000.00	1,356.21	
Totals for dept 261 - ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIV		72,361.99	57,000.00	57,298.00	
Dept 262 - ELECTION					
101-262-715.000	FICA	6.89		4.59	
101-262-801.000	ELECTIONS	23,916.71	10,000.00	7,881.56	
Totals for dept 262 - ELECTION		23,923.60	10,000.00	7,886.15	
Dept 264 - CAPITAL OUTLAY					
101-264-970.000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	27,226.84	4,000.00		
Totals for dept 264 - CAPITAL OUTLAY		27,226.84	4,000.00		
Dept 265 - TOWN HALL					
101-265-730.000	POSTAGE	6,857.14	6,000.00	5,728.31	
101-265-731.000	CLEANING	7,512.39	7,000.00	5,237.50	
101-265-756.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	15,858.40	14,000.00	14,802.92	
101-265-758.000	COMPUTER PROGRAMS & SUPP	28,523.18	20,000.00	28,862.34	30,000.00
101-265-850.000	TELEPHONE	4,536.52	4,500.00	3,680.21	
101-265-920.000	BLDG & GROUNDS	3,655.99	3,500.00	1,701.00	
101-265-921.000	ELECTRICITY, TWP HALL	4,085.50	4,000.00	3,636.63	
101-265-922.000	WATER AND SEWER TWP. HAL	1,155.78	1,200.00	732.74	
101-265-923.000	GAS & HEAT	2,186.26	2,000.00	1,582.85	
101-265-930.000	REPAIRS/MAINT	4,098.83	20,000.00	21,620.16	
101-265-956.000	REIMB		100.00		
Totals for dept 265 - TOWN HALL		78,469.99	82,300.00	87,584.66	
Dept 302 - ENFORCEMENT OFFICER					
101-302-702.001	ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SALA	6,000.00	6,386.00	5,321.70	
101-302-715.000	FICA	459.00	500.00	407.11	
Totals for dept 302 - ENFORCEMENT OFFICER		6,459.00	6,886.00	5,728.81	
Dept 340 - FIRE DEPT					
101-340-702.001	FIRE BOARD WAGES	2,360.00	2,800.00		

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APPROPRIATIONS					
Dept 340 - FIRE DEPT					
101-340-715.000	FICA	180.54	200.00		
101-340-975.000	FIRE DEPT OPERATING	276,665.00	476,665.00	276,665.00	
101-340-976.000	FIRE MILLAGE #1	86,845.58	89,500.00	391.38	
101-340-977.000	FIRE MILLAGE #2	90,144.24	93,000.00	406.26	
101-340-978.000	DELIN FIRE MILLAGE #1		2,500.00	2,761.29	
101-340-979.000	DELIN FIRE MILLAGE #2		2,500.00	2,854.49	
	Totals for dept 340 - FIRE DEPT	456,195.36	667,165.00	283,078.42	
Dept 371 - INSPECTION+ DEPT SUPPLIES					
101-371-956.000	REIMB		500.00		
	Totals for dept 371 - INSPECTION+ DEPT SUP		500.00		
Dept 372 - BUILDING INSP					
101-372-702.001	BUILDING INSP SALARY	35,000.04	36,050.00	30,041.70	
101-372-702.002	ASSIST BUILDING DEPT SAL	5,252.63	5,200.00	3,176.52	
101-372-715.000	FICA	3,079.31	3,500.00	2,541.19	
101-372-956.000	REIMB	922.15	1,000.00	(210.09)	
	Totals for dept 372 - BUILDING INSP	44,254.13	45,750.00	35,549.32	
Dept 373 - MECHANICAL INSP					
101-373-702.001	MECHANICAL INSP SALARY	11,325.00	9,000.00	7,650.00	
101-373-715.000	FICA	866.36	1,200.00	585.20	
	Totals for dept 373 - MECHANICAL INSP	12,191.36	10,200.00	8,235.20	
Dept 374 - ELECTRICAL INSP					
101-374-702.001	ELECTRICAL INSPC SALARY	7,650.00	8,000.00	6,225.00	
101-374-715.000	FICA	585.22	1,000.00	476.22	
101-374-956.000	REIMB		100.00		
	Totals for dept 374 - ELECTRICAL INSP	8,235.22	9,100.00	6,701.22	
Dept 375 - PLUMBING INSPECTOR					
101-375-702.001	PLUMBING INSPEC SALARY	5,475.00	6,000.00	5,175.00	
101-375-715.000	FICA	418.84	700.00	395.91	
101-375-956.000	REIMB		100.00		
	Totals for dept 375 - PLUMBING INSPECTOR	5,893.84	6,800.00	5,570.91	
Dept 445 - PUBLIC WORKS					
101-445-801.000	DRAIN	43,503.36	595,123.20	595,123.20	
	Totals for dept 445 - PUBLIC WORKS	43,503.36	595,123.20	595,123.20	
Dept 446 - PUBLIC WORKS					
101-446-801.000	ROADS & BRIDGES	36,624.15	60,000.00	60,594.00	
	Totals for dept 446 - PUBLIC WORKS	36,624.15	60,000.00	60,594.00	
Dept 448 - PUBLIC WORKS					

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APPROPRIATIONS					
Dept 448 - PUBLIC WORKS					
101-448-926.000	STREET LIGHTS	3,266.63	3,000.00	1,919.98	
Totals for dept 448 - PUBLIC WORKS		3,266.63	3,000.00	1,919.98	
Dept 536 - PUBLIC WORKS					
101-536-928.000	SEWER	2,317.94	2,500.00	1,917.06	
Totals for dept 536 - PUBLIC WORKS		2,317.94	2,500.00	1,917.06	
Dept 567 - CEMETERY					
101-567-702.001	SEXTON SALARY	10,712.04	11,033.36	9,194.50	
101-567-702.002	ASSIST SEXTON SALARY	144.00	500.00	126.00	
101-567-715.000	FICA	840.90	900.00	713.02	
101-567-826.002	GRAVE DIGGING	22,000.08	22,000.00	18,333.40	
101-567-826.003	CEMETERY MAINTENCE	53,700.15	55,000.00	47,919.01	
101-567-827.000	TRASH	616.32	800.00	449.81	
101-567-921.000	FAIRPLAINS ELECTRIC	295.84	400.00	302.77	
101-567-922.000	GREENWOOD CEMETARY WATER	370.91	500.00	307.75	
101-567-956.000	REIMB		100.00		
Totals for dept 567 - CEMETERY		88,680.24	91,233.36	77,346.26	
Dept 701					
101-701-702.001	PLANNING & ZONING SALARY	5,315.00	7,000.00		
101-701-715.000	FICA	310.22	500.00		
101-701-956.000	REIMB	1,168.75	1,200.00	395.00	
101-701-956.003	ENGINEERING & PLANNER AN	49,980.09	33,000.00	23,256.75	
Totals for dept 701 -		56,774.06	41,700.00	23,651.75	
Dept 733 - FARMLAND PRESERVATION					
101-733-801.000	FARMLAND PRESERVATION		3,000.00		
Totals for dept 733 - FARMLAND PRESERVATIO			3,000.00		
Dept 751 - S.R.A. Park Maintenance					
101-751-702.001	SRA BOARD WAGES	1,735.00	2,500.00		
101-751-715.000	FICA	132.74	200.00		
101-751-930.000	SPORTS PARK REPAIRS/MAIN	57,459.00	25,000.00	1,895.00	
Totals for dept 751 - S.R.A. Park Maintena		59,326.74	27,700.00	1,895.00	
Dept 790 - LIBRARY					
101-790-920.000	LIBRARY BLDG & GROUNDS	48,793.52	20,000.00	15,543.34	
101-790-980.000	LIBRARY MILLAGE		93,000.00	406.26	
101-790-981.000	DELINQUENT LIBRARY MILLA		2,500.00	2,860.29	
Totals for dept 790 - LIBRARY		48,793.52	115,500.00	18,809.89	
Dept 803 - HISTORICAL COMMISSION					
101-803-920.000	HISTORICAL COMM. BLDG &	9,580.00	10,000.00	1,215.96	4000.00

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DB: Sparta Twp

BUDGET REPORT FOR SPARTA TOWNSHIP
Fund: 101 GENERAL
Calculations as of 03/31/2026

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GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2024-25 ACTIVITY	2025-26 AMENDED BUDGET	2025-26 ACTIVITY THRU 03/31/26	2026-27 REQUESTED BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS					
Dept 803 - HISTORICAL COMMISSION					
Totals for dept 803 - HISTORICAL COMMISSIO		9,580.00	10,000.00	1,215.96	
Dept 966					
101-966-995.270	TRANSFER TO HIST COMMISS	21,000.00	20,000.00	15,000.00	
101-966-995.271	LIBRARY OPERATIONS	195,000.00	205,000.00	205,000.00	
Totals for dept 966 -		216,000.00	225,000.00	220,000.00	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		1,594,764.14	2,412,779.76	1,755,965.47	
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 101		37,261.52	(181,615.68)	(1,055,899.25)	
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		1,509,909.08	1,555,200.11	1,555,200.11	499,300.86
FUND BALANCE ADJUSTMENTS		8,029.51			
ENDING FUND BALANCE		1,555,200.11	1,373,584.43	499,300.86	499,300.86