

**Minutes of the Sparta Area Fire Authority Meeting
January 22, 2026**

Present: Goodfellow (twp), Cumings (village), Chief Olney, Bergman (twp-chair), Van Patten (village), Anderson (twp), Peoples (village) & Deputy Chief Wood

Absent: none

Bergman called the meeting to order @7:00 pm.

Additions to Agenda: correct next finance meeting dates from February to March

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Cumings to approve the agenda with changes

Second: VanPatten

Motion Passed: 6-0

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Meeting Minutes January 22, 2026:

Motion: Made Peoples approve January 22, 2026, minutes.

Second: Anderson

Motion Passed: 6-0

Finance Board Update:

Cumings stated that the finance board had met twice since the last board meeting. They reviewed and approved all department invoices for \$10,563 with most of the invoices on auto pay. There were no bill or invoices that needed any additional review. The department's operation budget is 74% for the first 10 ½ months of the year with a fund balance of \$1,169,513. Income is currently at 73% of the budget.

Approval of the bills:

Motion: Anderson to approve bills through February 17, 2026.

Second: Peoples

Motion Passed: 6-0

Old Business:

Fire Station Update

The Chief stated that bids for the fire station addition and remodel have been out through the Builders Exchange. The bids are due back on March 11th. There will be contractor's bid meeting hosted by the Andrus Architecture at the fire station on Wednesday February 25th to review the station addition and remodel drawing and answer any questions the contractors may have.

Fire Authority Millage: The chief stated he's still waiting for the attorney to finalize the language for August ballot.

Fire Station Deed: The chief stated he's working with the attorney to prepare a quick claim deed for the existing station property. The property has been titled in the township name for years (a very long time) and needs to retitle to the Sparta Fire Authority.

Chief's Report: Chief Olney presented the Chief's report. (attached) There were a total of 142 runs YTD. The months of January & February had 90 calls. There were 7 fires and 12 accidents with some minor injuries.

There were also 4 hazardous conditions during the month along with numerous false alarms. The major fire was huge house fire where the department gave mutual aid to Algoma Township. Several of the fires within the village were due to the loss of power on 3 phase electric to buildings. Due to the severe weather in January, the department responded to 12 motor vehicle accidents and hazardous conditions with some minor injuries. The Chief stated that Corewell Health, in testing their fire alarms, caused 3 false alarms. The fire department policy states that if there are more than 3 false alarms the resident/business can be invoiced for the call.

The Chief stated that fire department/station is hosting a "Blood Drive" for Saturday February 21st from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The department will also be hosting the Sparta Chamber meeting sometime in the late summer or early fall.

Annual Report:

The Chief presented to the board 2025 annual report. (attached) Highlights from the annual report. The department responded to 1070 calls, which were around 100 less calls than in 2024. The Department was approved for \$1M grant for a fire station addition and a grant for SCBA breathing apparatus. The Department took the proper steps to become a Fire Authority. Budgeting for the year remained the same with the department underrunning their operational budget and managed to increase their saving to over a \$1M dollars which will be used for the new fire station addition. The department is currently at 14 employees and chief is trying to find additional candidates for fire fighters. The department participated in Fire Safety/Prevention week and spoke to over 700 students (K- 2nd). They also took part in "Touch a Truck", "Hero's Night" and had over 648 hours of departmental training. There were 58 fires, 810 medical and accidents, 55 hazardous conditions and 53 false alarms with approximately 51% within the village and 49% of the calls outside the village.

Next Meeting Date: March 19th, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the fire station.

Next Finance Meeting Dates: March 3rd and March 17th at 4:00 PM at the fire station.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment:

Motion: VanPatten to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

Second: Cumings

Motion Passed: 6-0

Minutes by Goodfellow 2-20-25.



Sparta Fire Department

36 Elmwood Street
Sparta, MI 49345
Telephone: 616-887-0900

Chiefs Report

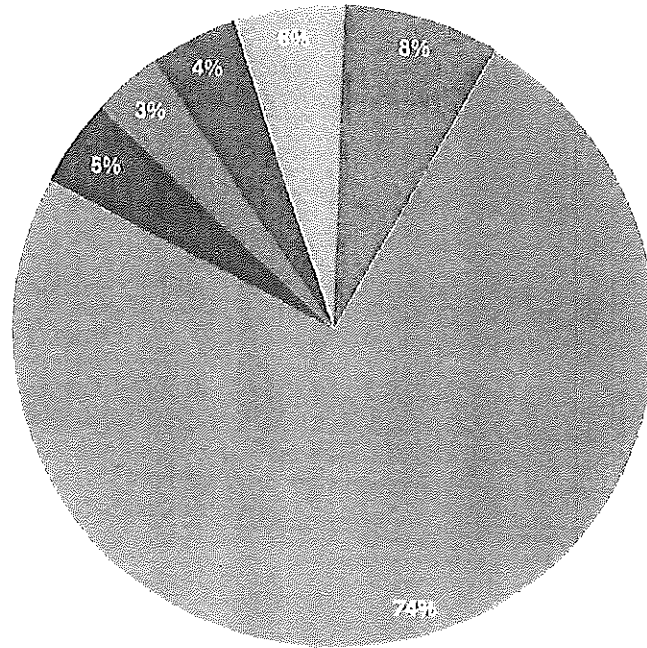
New Business:

1. Monthly report (from January 19, 2026 thru February 15, 2026)
 1. Fire calls (NFIRS 100 classifications)
 1. 13196 Pine Island – aid to Algoma on a house fire
 2. 4100 16-mile – garage fire: aid from Kent City and Casnovia
 3. 399 S Union #5 – cooking fire: aid from Alpine and Kent City
 4. 424 E Division – smoke in the building
 5. 275 S State – smoke in the building
 6. 8879 Country View – vehicle fire: aid from Alpine and Kent City
 7. 122 Aspen – light fixture on fire in the ceiling: auto aid from Alpine and Kent City
 2. Explosions calls (NFIRS 200 classifications)
 3. Rescue calls, including accidents (NFIRS 3- classifications)
 1. Sparta Ave and O'Connor: slide off
 2. 11945 Sparta Ave: roll over (minor injuries)
 3. M37 and O'Connor: three-car slide off (no injuries)
 4. 731 13-mile: animal rescue
 5. Sparta Ave and O'Connor: slide off, no injuries
 6. M37 and 13-mile: two-car property damage
 7. M37 and 12-mile: slide off, no injuries
 8. M37 north of 13-mile: roll over with minor injuries
 9. Fruit Ridge south of 12-mile: slide off
 10. 13350 Sparta Ave
 11. M37 and Sparta Ave: car vs. deer
 12. Fruit Ridge and 12-mile: rollover minor injuries
 4. Hazardous Conditions (NFIRS 400 classifications)
 1. 54 Carrie: wire down
 2. 318 Hill Valley Lane: CO Alarm
 3. 327 N Elm: gas leak
 4. 12119 Long Lake Dr: CO Alarm
 5. Service calls (NFIRS 500 classifications)
 1. 3 – assist calls
 6. Good intent calls (NFIRS 600 classifications)
 1. 2- cancelled call after being dispatched
 2. 12293 Sparta Ave: odor of natural gas
 3. 9800 Sparta Ave: two vehicle accident (nothing located)
 7. False alarms (NFIRS 700 classifications)
 1. 9983 Sparta Ave: fire alarm
 2. 2111 12-mile: fire alarm
 3. 100 Ida Red: fire alarm: steam from a broken furnace line
 4. 2111 12-mile: fire alarm
 5. 2111 12-mile: fire alarm
 8. Severe Weather incident (NFIRS 800 classifications)
 9. Special incidents (NFIRS 900 classifications)

Run Log

JANUARY 19, 2026 THRU FEBRUARY 15, 2026

- Fire
- All medicals and accidents
- Hazardous conditions
- Service calls
- Good Intent
- False alarms



INCIDENT TYPE	1-19-2026 thru 2-15-2026
Fire	7
Explosion, Ruptures	0
All medicals and accidents	67
Hazardous conditions	4
Service calls	3
Good Intent	4
False alarms	5
Weather events	0
Special Events/Incident	0
Total	90

Total Year to Date: 142 calls