

**Minutes of the Sparta Area Fire Authority Meeting
March 19, 2026**

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

Absent: Peoples (village)

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

Additions to Agenda: none

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Cumings to approve the agenda

Second: Johnson

Motion Passed: 5-0

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Meeting Minutes February 19, 2026:

Motion: Made Johnson approve February 19, 2026, minutes.

Second: Cumings

Motion Passed: 5-0

Finance Board Update:

Anderson stated that the finance board had met once since the last board meeting. They reviewed and approved all department invoices for \$13,000.04 with most of the invoices on auto pay. There were no invoices that needed any additional review. The department's operation budget is 77.1% for the year with a fund balance of \$1,335,166. Income is currently at 102% of the budget.

Approval of the bills:

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

Second: Cumings

Motion Passed: 5-0

Old Business:

Millage Proposition: The chief present to the board the department attorney's exhibit for the millage proposal and a Resolution approval for the primary election in August. The board was concerned with the ballot millage wording and the term of the millage. The term of the millage is currently stated as 6 years. Discussion on the possibility of extending the term to 10 years closer aligned with proposed loan from Choice One for the addition of the station. The Board decided that a 6-year term best fits current and future needs of the department. The board had several concerns regarding wording for the millage request. The words, "new" and "Additional" suggest the millage is and new millage and a additional when it's really a renewal of existing millage. The only reason the wording was changed because the department is a "Authority".

Motion: Goodfellow to approve the millage request with changes to wording to "replacement" millage pending approval from department lawyer.

Second: Cumings

Motion Passed: 4-1

Resolution to approve ballot proposal:

Motion: Goodfellow to approve Resolution #2 to approve ballot proposal.

Second: Johnson

Motion Passed: 4-1

Bylaws for Fire Authority:

The chief presented the board with the bylaws of the Sparta Area Fire Authority. The new bylaws are required as the department has become an "Authority". The board reviewed the bylaws, made one change. Change the meeting day for Tuesday to Thursday.

Motion: Johnson to approve Resolution #3 for fire authority bylaws.

Second: Cumings

Motion Passed: 4-1

Fire Station Update:

Chief's Report: Chief Olney presented the Chief's report. (attached) There were a total of 225 runs YTD with 82 calls in the last period. There were 4 fires, 2 auto aid and 2 accidents with some minor injuries. There were also 3 hazardous conditions and 1 illegal burn in the village during the month along with 3 false alarms.

Station Project:

The chief stated that 13 bids were presented for the Sparta Fire Station Addition. There was approximately \$600,000 difference between the highest bid and lowest bid. Andrus Architecture did an evaluation of the lowest 3 bids, which were all within \$20,000. In post-bid comparison of the lowest bids, Nugent Builders was lowest responsive bidder. It was the recommendation of Andrus Architecture that the board award the bid to Nugent Builders for adjusted total of \$2,589,000. (see attached)

The contract between Nugent Builders and the Sparta Fire Authority is under review between the USDA, Andrus Architecture and Nugent Builders.

Motion: Johnson to accept the Bid from Nugent Builders and move forward with contracts.

Second: Cumings

Motion Passed: 5-0

Station Funding:

With the increase in our station addition project, the chief asked Choice One if they would increase our loan request to \$800,000. Choice One approved our loan request and has committed an \$800,000 loan. It's estimated that our annual payment would be approximately \$82,000. The board discussed the payments, based on our new millage renewal and our existing funds available, the board agreed that we will be able to meet those payments.

Motion: Johnson to approve from Choice One Bank for \$800,000.

Second: Anderson

Motion Passed: 5-0

Budget Amendment:

The Chief working with David Carpenter, Fire Department Accounting, has reviewed our existing 25-26 budget and has recommended several changes to more-true up the budget expenditures. The Chief covered those changes with the board.

Motion: Anderson to approve budget changes.

Second: Johnson

Motion Passed: 5-0

Lawn Care:

The Chief stated he's received the lawn care contract from Water Works for the year. The Chief said that the entire area will be under construction for the rest of the year and a lawn care contract will not be needed for the year. He'll ask Water Works rebid the contract next year once the construction is completed.

Next Meeting Date: April 23rd at 7:00 PM at the fire station.

Next Finance Meeting Dates: April 7th, 2026, and April 21st, 2026, at 4:00 PM at the fire station.

Public Comment: Jim Lower, Village Manager, commented on how well the department is being managed. He stated that he's very supportive of the work that has taken place to get the new fire station addition approved.

Adjournment:

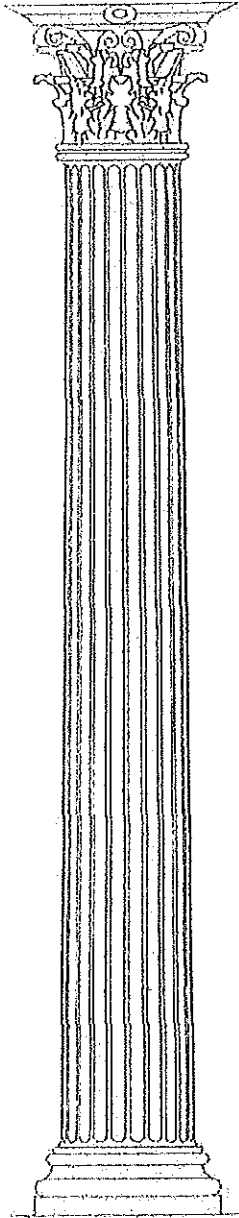
Motion: Goodfellow to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Second: Cumings

Motion Passed: 6-0

Minutes by Goodfellow 3-21-25.

Andrus Architecture



17 March 2026

Sparta Fire Department
Attn, Don Olney- Fire Chief
36 Elmwood Street / 45 North State Street
Sparta, MI 49341

Tel: 887.0900
Email: donolney@spartafiremi.org

Re: Sparta Fire Concept Additions
AA File: 21-055

Dan,
After receiving thirteen bids and completing a post-bid comparison of the lowest responsive bidders, we recommend awarding the contract to Nugent Builders.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.
Sincerely,

Robert E. Andrus, AIA, NCARB
Andrus Architecture, Inc.

11629 Northland Drive
Suite 200
Rockford, MI 49341
Tel: 616.863.8850



Sparta Fire Department

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

Chiefs Report

New Business:

1. Monthly report (from February 16, 2026, thru March 15, 2026)
 1. Fire calls (NFIRS 100 classifications)
 1. 9108 Lady Laruen – auto aid to Algoma for Tender 8 (cancelled)
 2. 590 S State – broken sprinkler head
 3. 520 S. State – vehicle fire (fire out)
 4. 692 10-mile barn fire (auto aid to Alpine Fire)
 2. Explosions calls (NFIRS 200 classifications)
 3. Rescue calls, including accidents (NFIRS 3- classifications)
 1. M37 and 13-mile rd: minor injuries
 2. M37 and 13-mile rd: rollover accident (no injuries)
 4. Hazardous Conditions (NFIRS 400 classifications)
 1. Martindale and Fairlane – powerline down
 2. 333 Doris – wire and tree down
 3. 150 Carries – wire down
 5. Service calls (NFIRS 500 classifications)
 1. 580 Edward – ceiling collapse
 2. 580 Edward – return call for a ceiling collapse
 6. Good intent calls (NFIRS 600 classifications)
 1. 359 N Elm – illegal burn
 2. 8503 Spartan Line – brush pile on fire (no hazard)
 7. False alarms (NFIRS 700 classifications)
 1. 341 10-mile: fire alarm activation
 2. 590 S. State: broken sprinkler head
 3. 240 Spartan Drive: Appleview Elementary – fire alarm
 8. Severe Weather incident (NFIRS 800 classifications)
 9. Special incidents (NFIRS 900 classifications)

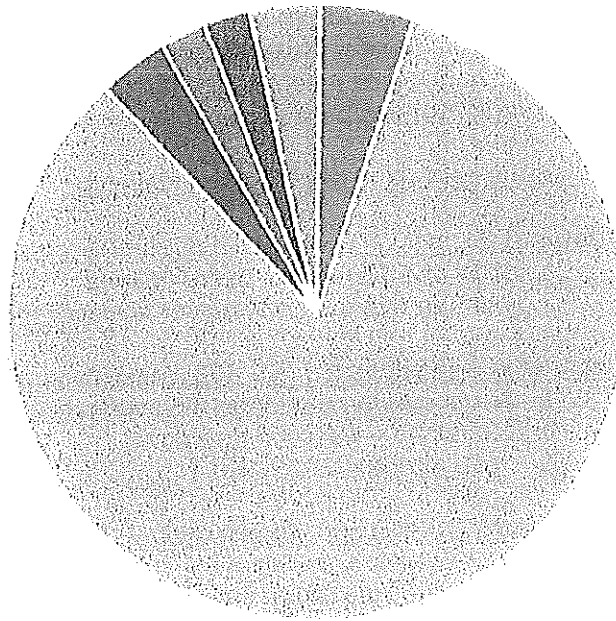


Sparta Fire Department

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

Monthly Report

February 16-2026 thru March 15-2026



- Fire Incidents
- Explosion
- All medicals and accidents
- Hazardous Conditions
- Service Calls
- Good Intent
- False Alarms
- Weather Related Events
- Special Events/Incidents

Incident Type	Date: 2-16-2026 thru 3-15-2026
Fire Incidents	4
Explosion	0
All medicals and accidents	68
Hazardous Conditions	3
Service Calls	2
Good Intent	2
False Alarms	3
Weather Related Events	0
Special Events/Incidents	0
Total	82

Total calls for the year: 225
(as of March 15)