

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the
Sparta Township Board
160 E. Division - Sparta MI 49345
July 22, 2026 9:00 AM

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. by Supervisor Dale Bergman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Dale Bergman, Marcy Savage, Bill Goodfellow, Jason Bradford, Ashley Johnson, and Barb Johnson

Members Absent: Rob Steffens

Approval of the Agenda: It was motioned by B. Johnson to approve the agenda with the removal of number 2, which was approving new wording for the ballot. It was seconded by Goodfellow. Passed 6-0

Public Comment:

Jim Lyema appreciated how the Clerk's office has run elections. He also believes that the ballot wording was an honest mistake. He stated that he was thankful the board was addressing the situation.

MerriJo Tuinstra, Library Director, read a statement from the Millage Committee (Larry Carter)

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Resolution of Intent Regarding Sparta Township Library Millage Renewal Proposal

Savage commented that the mistake on the ballot regarding the library, was her mistake. She stated a rumor was circulating that the Township would have to charge more than what is stated on the ballot. Savage reassured the community that the attorney stated that since this is a renewal and due to the Headlee Amendment, that it is illegal for the Township to charge more than the .2375. In addition, the DDA cannot capture money from a library. Savage then read the attached resolution. B. Johnson made a motion to accept Resolution 26-4 (see attached) as written. It was seconded by Bradford. There was a roll call vote taken, Motion Passed 6-0.

Goodfellow made a comment that the whole board was at fault, he wished the board had done something sooner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Lynama made a statement and asked the public to vote no on the Library Millage.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by A. Johnson. Passed 6-0 at 9:21 AM>

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Savage, Sparta Township Clerk

RESOLUTION #26-4

SPARTA TOWNSHIP

**RESOLUTION OF INTENT REGARDING SPARTA TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

At a special meeting of the Township Board for the Township of Sparta, Kent County,
Michigan, held on the 22nd day of July 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: B. Johnson, A. Johnson, Goodfellow, Bradford, Savage, Bergman

ABSENT: Steffens

The following preamble and resolution was offered by B. Johnson and seconded by
Bradford.

WHEREAS, the Sparta Township Library Board adopted a resolution requesting
submission to the electors of a library millage renewal proposal authorizing the levy of a tax
in an amount **not to exceed 0.2375 mill (\$0.2375 per \$1,000 of taxable value)** for library
purposes for a period of ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, the Sparta Township Board thereafter adopted a resolution approving
placement of the proposal on the August 4, 2026 election ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board has subsequently determined that the approved
ballot language inadvertently omitted the word "not" from the phrase "not to exceed 0.2375
mill," resulting in the phrase "to exceed 0.2375 mill," which was an unintentional clerical and
typographical error; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board at all times intended to submit to the voters the
same millage proposal approved by the Sparta Township Library Board, namely a renewal
millage in an amount **not to exceed 0.2375 mill** for a period of ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board further stated in the resolution that to the extent
required by law, a portion of the library millage would be captured by the Village of Sparta
Downtown Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, such a capture is not permitted under Michigan law because ad valorem
property taxes levied for public library purposes are exempt from tax increment capture and
therefore cannot be captured by a downtown development authority; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board desires to clarify the intent of its prior action and
preserve an accurate legislative record regarding the proposal submitted to the electorate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Township Board hereby acknowledges that the omission of the word "not" from the approved ballot language was an unintentional clerical and typographical error.
2. The Township Board declares that its intent was, and remains, to certify to the electors of Sparta Township a library millage renewal proposal authorizing the levy of a tax **not to exceed 0.2375 mill (\$0.2375 per \$1,000 of taxable value)** for a period of ten (10) years as approved by the Sparta Township Library Board.
3. The Township Board further declares that any statement indicating that the proposed library millage could be captured by the Village of Sparta Downtown Development Authority is not permitted because library millages are exempt from tax increment capture under Michigan law and therefore cannot be captured by the Downtown Development Authority.
4. The Township Board affirms that neither the typographical error nor the incorrect statement concerning tax increment capture alters the amount, purpose, or intended disposition of the proposed library millage approved by the Sparta Township Library Board.
5. The Township Clerk is directed to include this Resolution in the official records of the Township and to provide copies as necessary to clarify the Township's legislative intent concerning the August 4, 2026 library millage proposal.

A vote on the above Resolution was taken and was as follows:

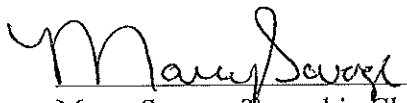
ADOPTED:

YEAS: B. Johnson, A. Johnson, Goodfellow, Bradford, Savage, Bergman

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF Kent)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Township Clerk of Sparta Township, Kent County, Michigan, CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular meeting held on the 22nd day of July, 2026.



Marcy Savage, Township Clerk