

## **Marcy Savage**

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**From:** Jim Lower <Villagemanager@spartami.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 1, 2026 11:04 PM  
**To:** Jim Lower  
**Subject:** Library Millage Legal Issues

Sparta Township Board & Sparta Library Board,

The Village Council has asked that I reach out to formally inform you of its position and intentions regarding the recently approved library millage.

As you are aware, the language of the millage has raised significant legal questions and concerns within the community. In particular, there are questions regarding whether the language, as approved by voters, complies with applicable Michigan election law and the Michigan Constitution, as well as what consequences the language could have for taxpayers over the ten-year life of the millage.

I want to be clear that the Village Council supports the library as an institution and continues to share the short- and long-term goal of maintaining a properly funded library serving Village and Township residents, as well as residents of a future City of Sparta should that transition ultimately be approved.

At the same time, a majority of the Village Council believe strongly that the legal issues surrounding the millage cannot simply be left unresolved. The Council believes these questions should be addressed by a court of competent jurisdiction so that taxpayers, the Library, the Township, and the Village have clarity regarding the validity and effect of the language that was approved.

Accordingly, several members of the Village Council intend to seek judicial review of the millage language soon.

We recognize that pursuing this course of action may create some short-term uncertainty for the Library. However, given the potential consequences of leaving the current language in place for the next ten years, a majority of the Village Council believes this is a necessary step to protect taxpayers and ensure that any library millage is legally sound, clearly understood, and properly approved by the voters.

This action should not be interpreted as opposition to the Library or to its continued funding. Rather, the Council's concern is with the legal validity and long-term implications of the specific millage language that was placed before voters.

Additional information will be provided as the process moves forward. At this time, this email represents the extent to which the Village is able to comment on the matter. Please direct any questions or comments to me; however, please understand that I may not be able to provide additional information until a later date.