

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF  
EAST SPARTA, COUNTY OF STARK AND STATE OF OHIO HELD IN THE  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON MAY 19, 2008.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Truax. The Mayor led Council and visitors in reciting The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following members present; Mayor Jackie Truax, Council Members Charlene Stelluto, Michael Caudill, Chris Freitag, Marlene Gray, Kenneth Byrd and Clerk-Treasurer Rice. Absent was Council Member Robert Smith. Visitors included; Joe Kostic (Village Coordinator), Karen Mundy (Press News), Doug Baum (Pike Township Trustee), Dave Collier ( East Sparta Fire), Ervine Carpenter, Patricia Byrd, Denise Straub, Arnie Adams, Dan Fetters, Ron Morrow, and Mark Schillig.

Chief Hager presented the Police Report to Council. For April there were; 6 Traffic Arrests, 0 Juvenile Traffic, 1 DUI Arrest, 2 Crash Reports, 5 Misdemeanor Arrests, 0 Felony Arrests, 13 Calls for Service and 6 Agency Assists.

The minutes of the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were read. Freitag made motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Gray. Roll call 4 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

The Financial reports were presented to Council. The reports included; Warrant Register, Charge Register, Receipt Register, Revenue Status, Fund Status, Bank Reconciliation and Appropriation Status. Caudill made motion to pay the bills totaling \$42,703.94, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 4 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Cash Report to Council. There was \$236.00 collected with \$72.00 going to the state. Freitag made motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Gray. Roll call 4 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. The Mayor reported to Council that as Mayor, she is terminating Mayor's Court by the end of June. The state is slowly phasing out smaller Mayor's Courts, so the East Sparta Mayor's Court will cease by the end of June.

R-8-08-5 resolution requesting Amended Certificate and Supplemental Appropriations in the amount of \$5,126.20 to reflect donations made to the Park Fund and General Fund for postage of questionnaires. Byrd made motion to suspend three readings, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 4 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. Freitag made motion to accept resolution as presented, seconded by Caudill. Roll call 4 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

Stelluto arrived at 7:05pm.

The Mayor read a letter to Council from Pike Township Trustees. The letter basically stated that the trustees objected to statements that they are attempting to "strong arm" the Council. The Trustees stated that they support the fire department and only want what is best for the residents. The Trustees stated that they look forward to working with the Village in the future.

The Mayor stated that she had also received a letter from Council Member Robert Smith. Smith tendered his resignation from Council citing several reasons stemming from the problem with the fire levy and a conversation he had concerning an employee smoking in the ambulance. Included with Smith's resignation was an anonymous letter berating Smith for Council's conduct and stating the individual was returning free pizza coupons and would no longer purchase from Smith's business. The letter was unsigned. Smith also stated that he and his wife had been called liars by the ambulance supervisor. Stelluto made motion to accept the resignation of Robert Smith, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 5 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

Byrd addressed Council. Byrd stated that he has received 100% support in his neighborhood for both himself and Council. Byrd stated that he has received no negative remarks regarding the fire levy or tactics used by the fire department and trustees. Byrd also stated that what the Village is going through is not exclusive to us. North Canton is going through the same thing with their fire department and lack of funds.

Caudill addressed Council. Caudill stated that he has received no negative response since the letter and everyone has been 100% behind him. Caudill stated that he has not negotiated with any fire department about providing service. He did inquire of neighboring companies if they would respond if the East Sparta Fire Department would not respond to a fire. No mention of money was discussed.

Ervine Carpenter addressed Council. Carpenter stated that he joined the fire department in 1951 and obtained his EMS training in 1978. Carpenter stated that he helped build the

building from the ground up. Having stated these qualifications, Carpenter stated that he is 76 years old and still working, not because he wants to, but rather because he needs to too survive. Carpenter stated that he cannot afford any more taxes. His savings are virtually gone due to increase in living expenses. Carpenter stated that it would actually cost him less if the fire department were not here. His insurance would go up only \$67.00 versus what the levy would cost him. Carpenter stated that in the past he had heard the comment” We have too much money and need to spend some”. This comment was made at the fire department back in 1986. Carpenter stated that he would like to see the figures from the fire department showing how the money they have is spent.

R-3-08-5 resolution requesting certification from Stark County Auditor for 1.25 mills. Stelluto made motion to suspend three readings, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 5 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. Stelluto made motion to accept resolution as presented, seconded by Caudill. Roll call 5 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

Byrd suggested that the Health and Safety Committee meet with Pike Township and Sandy Township to discuss funding for the fire department. Stelluto stated that the fire department should be included to start negotiating the 2009 contract.

The Mayor thanked everyone who helped with cleanup and thanked Waste Management American Landfill for providing the dumpsters.

The Mayor stated that the Health and Safety Committee also needs to address new policies upcoming from the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Mayor stated that Paul Black, Joel Black’s Father, passed away on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Black was the first Mayor of East Sparta. The Mayor had spoken with Mr. Black several times in recent years about the history of East Sparta. He will be missed. The Park Board Minutes were presented to Council.

The Water Board Minutes were presented to Council.

Stelluto made motion to adjourn, seconded by Freitag. Meeting adjourned 8:10pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk-Treasurer