

**Village of Sparta  
Kent County, Michigan  
Special Village Council Meeting  
Monday September 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
Sparta Village Hall (156 E. Division)**

**Present:** President Robert Whalen, Council members Brenda Braybrook, Robert Carlstrom, Dave Cumings, Courtney Mais, Tom Peoples, and Bill Taylor.

**Absent:** none.

**Also present:** Village Manager Jim Lower, Village Clerk Katy Shelton, Police Sergeant Dave Price, Rob Smith from IAI.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Roll Call:** Formal roll call was taken. Those in attendance/absent are noted above.
4. **Additions or Corrections to Consent and Business Agenda**
  - A. None.
  - B. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda:** Motion by Carlstrom with a second by Braybrook to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
  - C. **Public Comment for Agenda Item**

Please Note: This Public Comment portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on agenda items. Personal or abusive attacks on Council members, staff members, or other participants will not be tolerated and may result in the Village President taking action, up to and including, having the speaker removed from the meeting by law enforcement officers.

    - a. None.
  - D. **Public Hearing**
    - a. None.
  - E. **Old Business:**

None.
  - F. **New Business:**
    - a. **Emergency Sewer Plant Repair (Oxidation ditch):** Village Manager Lower reported on this matter. He said that the bearings seized up on one of the rotors

for the Village's only functioning oxidation ditch at the sewer plant. As a result, the Village has installed a temporary aerator/agitator and adjusted the speed of the rotor on the other side to compensate. This has bought time to get quotes and acquire the parts needed to make the repair. He said that the Village received two quotes on the project – one from IAI's mechanical team and one from Northwest Kent Mechanical. The two firms have different ideas as to how to make the repairs which is reflected in their very different prices. Northwest Kent Mechanical's quote is \$79,927.00 and IAI's quote is \$126,448.00. Rob Smith and John English from IAI were both present at the council meeting. It was noted that these types of bearings typically have a lifespan of 8-10 years, and ours are 13 years old. The Council discussed the two proposals as well as their experience with IAI and Northwest Kent Mechanical. Both firms are ready to start the project as soon as it is approved . Motion by Carlstrom with a second by Cumings to approve Northwest Kent Mechanical to make the repairs at a cost of \$79,927.00. Motion passed unanimously.

- G. **Village Manager & Department Reports:** Village Manager Lower reported on the matter of an IT vendor which the Council dealt with at the last meeting. He said that the vendor selected by the Council, Corporate Technologies, have told the Village that they are not able to work with our police department on the LIEN function. Because of that, the Village Manager canceled the contract with Corporate Technologies. He said that we will stick with our current vendor, VC3, for the foreseeable future until we can make a change.
- He also reported that Chad from the DPW was recently involved in an accident and suffered some serious injuries. Because of that, he will be off on sick leave for quite a while.
- The Village Manager also gave a Balyeat Field update well as the associated work behind the Village offices and across from Angela's restaurant. He believes that all the work will be done by mid or end of October. The Council requested that he ask the contractor about milling and paving behind the vinyl shop as well as fixing the end of Alma street. This would also encompass storm sewers and catch basins.
- The Village Manager also reported that the new DPW manager will be starting this next Monday and the DPW Labor employee will start October 9<sup>th</sup>.

H. **Communications:**

- a. None.

- I. **Council Member Announcements:** Randy Carter is retiring and there will be a retirement party later this week. Council members will be informed of the exact time and day.
- J. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by President Whalen at 5:39pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton. Village Clerk.