

MINUTES
MONTHLY ORONOCO TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 1, 2017

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The monthly Oronoco Town Board Meeting was called to order on May 1, 2017 by Chairman Neil Stolp. Supervisors Neil Stolp and Charlie Lacy were present. Supervisor Richard Lyke and Treasurer Kim Stanton were absent.

Ryland Eichhorst introduced himself as the new mayor of Oronoco. He noted his hope that the City and Township work together. Neil Stolp indicated the same. Mr. Eichhorst reported that the Oronoco dam removal project is about half done.

Charlie Lacy made a motion to approve the April 3, 2017 minutes, Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried 2-0.

Charlie Lacy made a motion to approve the April 17, 2017 Board of Appeals & Equalization minutes, Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried 2-0.

The order of agenda was changed to move Mr. Eichhorst as the first item, and Neil Stolp added a citizen weed concern to New Business.

The Treasurer's report in written form showed the monthly "Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances" as of April 30, 2017: Receipts \$107,268.95 and Disbursements \$207,118.11 with an ending balance of \$446,212.88. Neil Stolp made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried 2-0.

There was no OPEC report.

Jeff Allhiser, Director of First Responders, reported six Township runs in both March and April. Mr. Allhiser introduced new Assistant Director Chris Inman.

Scott Schumacher noted that spring road work has been hampered by wet weather. Rock work will start tomorrow. Sweeping and shoulder repair are underway. The needed culvert work at King's Park and Sunset Bay Roads will be done this spring, summer. Blade work will start when roads dry a bit. A King's Park citizen asked if culvert work would affect traffic. Scott noted that a temporary road would be built.

Neil Stolp got a call about potholes on 18th Ave/Lion's Court NW, but this is not a Township road.

Oronoco Township Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2017

Page 2

The bills were presented for payment, totaling \$95,500.71. Neil Stolp made a motion to approve the May bills, Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried 2-0. Clerk Lucy Shonyo explained the higher People's Energy Cooperative payments for Cedar Beach and King's Park septic systems. For Cedar Beach, this is due to inaccurate estimated readings and, for both accounts, a mismatch between billing due dates and Township payment dates. To rectify, for both accounts, this month's payments are March usage plus April and May estimated usage. The June payment will be a pre-payment of June usage.

Charlie Lacy made a motion that the following be approved signers for Oronoco Township so long as these persons hold elected Township positions: all Supervisors, Neil Stolp, Richard Lyke, Charles Lacy; Treasurer, Kim Stanton; Clerk, Lucy Shonyo; Deputy Clerk, Dale Thomforde, New Haven Township; Deputy Treasurer, Bob Figy, New Haven Township. Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried 2-0.

Charlie Lacy agreed to represent Oronoco Township on the Pine Island Joint Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cedar Beach Fence: Sheila Craig indicated that spruce and lilacs will be planted on the north side, partial east side, and behind some garages to enclose the septic site. This will not affect funding and is close to the tensile fence price. A change order is required but was not available by meeting time. So that planting is not delayed, a motion was made by Neil Stolp to approve signing the change order by Chair Neil Stolp and/or Clerk Lucy Shonyo when it becomes available. Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried 2-0.

Sheila Craig also noted a Cedar Beach walk-through is forthcoming, that a homeowner pump was repaired by Ellingson and Gopher Septic, and that she and Eric Blasing from Wenck are working on an electric pump issue.

Sunset Bay: Sheila Craig has received 16 of 25 homeowner surveys for the septic project, a good response. She also noted that the Ryan's Bay septic project will be 82 homes, and that a second homeowner meeting will be scheduled for the last week of May.

Del Mergen asked about progress on the Sunset Bay road. Neil Stolp indicated we have received a bid, and are waiting for Zumbro Township.

NEW BUSINESS:

Weed Issue: Neil Stolp received an inquiry from a Zumbro Haven homeowner about noxious weeds. The homeowner was not present to discuss the issue.

River Hills Court Paving Assessments: This item was moved to the June agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING – Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment #OR2017-002TA

Kristi Gross from Olmsted County Planning was present to introduce the needed action and answer questions from citizens.

In short, FEMA has revised floodplain maps and made changes to flood insurance. The action needed by the Oronoco Township Board is to adopt these changes. It was described as a needed “housekeeping” action, necessary to access flood disaster funds and conventional homeowner flood insurance, among other things.

Neil Stolp made a motion to open the Public Hearing, Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried 2-0. Neil Stolp asked 3 times for comments for or against the action.

Questions, answers, comments included the following:

- Neil Stolp recalled how Oronoco Township benefited by disaster funds after the 2010 flood.
- If you hold a mortgage, and are in a flood plain, your lender will send a notice that insurance is required. If you get this notice and have already filed a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) you may be exempt from needing insurance.
- Oronoco Township cannot have less restrictive ordinances than Olmsted County.
- Adopting this makes homeowners eligible to buy flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance program, less expensive than private flood insurance.

Neil Stolp made a motion to close the Public Hearing, Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried 2-0.

Charlie Lacy made a motion to adopt Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment #OR2017-002TA, Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried 2-0.

Comments:

- There was a citizen question about feedlot set-backs. Charlie Lacy reviewed the recent action of OPEC. They decided to maintain the set-back at ¼ mile, instead of going to ½ mile, because the change would have adversely affected 96 property owners. OPEC also discussed raising allowed animal units but no action was taken. Oronoco Township has the most restrictive regulation on animal units. It was felt we are an atypical township with more single-family homes in neighborhoods. The Board noted that analysis is needed from an expert who can provide demographic information.
- Neil Stolp got a request from Clayton Cowl, 18th Ave NE, to pave a road. Neil Stolp, Charlie Lacy and Scott Schumacher will visit the site. Item will be on the June agenda.
- Kim Stanton fixed the flashing STOP sign at the corner of White Bridge Road and 5th St. NE.
- Neil Stolp asked if we approved Metes & Bounds #OR2017-001MB too early in the process. Clerk Lucy Shonyo will investigate.
- Multiple citizens expressed concern that the Oronoco dam project is sending silt and sediment downstream. They say required sediment fences are no longer in position at the dam site. They understand that the dam is in Oronoco City (not Township), but requested that the Oronoco Township Board send a letter on their behalf to the DNR, MPCA and Olmsted County. Neil Stolp and Charlie Lacy will draft a letter.
- Neil Stolp received notice of a dog bite from the Olmsted County Sheriff's office. Neil Stolp made calls to the person bitten and the dog owner from the meeting. There was no answer from either party.

Charlie Lacy made a motion to adjourn, Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Lucy Shonyo, Clerk _____