

**ORONOCO TOWNSHIP  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 2019 8:15 PM**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The annual Oronoco Township meeting was called to order on March 12, 2019 at 8:15 pm by clerk Lucy Shonyo. There were 6 people present. Kim Stanton presided as moderator.

These documents were distributed: proposed agenda, minutes of the 2018 annual meeting, Board of Audit minutes from Feb 4, 2019 and the 2018 Financial Report including road, levy information and township revenues and expenditures.

Mary Fuller from The Oronoco Cemetery Board addressed those present. She thanked Oronoco Township for their continuing support of the cemetery. She noted the Tilfords do a great job with cemetery caretaking. New last year was a program whereby people can pay to have flowers watered through the summer for \$50/season.

The remaining agenda items were accepted as presented.

A motion was made by Ken Mergen to accept the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried.

The **Board of Audit** and the **Financial Reports** were presented in written form by Treasurer Kim Stanton.

The **Board of Audit** met February 4, 2019. The minutes of that meeting were distributed. They explain the monthly process of reconciling financial accounts between the clerk and the treasurer. The Board chose to review all invoices paid in August 2018. All were found to be correct. A motion was made by Ken Mergen to accept the findings of the Board of Audit. Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried.

Kim Stanton reviewed the 2018 **Financial Report** explaining some significant activities and expenditures. Oronoco Township's 2018 starting balance was \$397,814, receipts were \$758,565, disbursements \$650,402, with an ending balance (assets) of \$506,021. Liabilities include the notes for King's Park Septic (\$46,286) and Cedar Beach Septic (\$273,078). The township has special assessments in place for these septic projects as well as road projects Shorewood Lane Paving, River Hill Paving and the 18<sup>th</sup> Ave Extension Paving. Road maintenance and repair, including snow removal, continue to be the township's largest expense. Chip sealing was completed on 18<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, South Minnesota Ave, Blakely Court, Sattre Road (patching), with less extensive work on Fisherman's Inn and Zumbro Pines Lane. There is an additional estimated \$400,000. of chip sealing needed on other roads.

Oronoco Township is part of the **Pine Island Fire District**. Dues have increased about 3% a year (12% over 4 years). The Fire District is planning to purchase a new pumper at significant expense. Oronoco Township is serviced by Oronoco First Responders. Neil Stolp made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried.

In the Road Report Supervisor Neil Stolp referenced needed chip sealing estimated at \$400,000. Continual chip sealing and chloride application are important to keep roads well-maintained. 11th Ave saw significant traffic increases during Hwy 63 construction in the summer of 2018. The township is in negotiation with MNDOT for reimbursement of increased maintenance costs the township experienced. Ryan's Bay Road work looks like it will proceed this year. This will cost both Oronoco and Zumbro Townships an estimated \$225,000.

**First Responder** Director Jeff Allhiser and Assistant Chris Inman were present to speak to First Responder coverage. There were 60 calls from the township in 2018. They are usually the first on the scene. Gold Cross is also immediately dispatched as First Responders do not transport. Citizens will not be billed by First Responders but will be billed by Gold Cross. The township pays Oronoco First Responders \$8,000 a year for their services. Maps and GPS are used to locate addresses. Fire numbers are no longer used. A new dispatch system has been implemented. First Responders were thanked for their service.

**Pine Island Fire District** Chief Brandon Sather was not present.

Supervisor Charlie Lacy spoke about **Oronoco Township Planning Advisory Commission (OT-PAC)**. OT-PAC is a new name (formerly OPAC) to differentiate Oronoco Township from Oronoco City and Olmsted County. They meet as needed and have added two new members in 2018. In October 2018 they met with Tom Canan from the County Attorney's office and Sandy Goslee from Olmsted County Planning Dept. It was an informative meeting relating to each organizations' role in planning and zoning. In 2019 OT-PAC will work with Olmsted County on Land Use Plans. The final plat for Providentia Subdivision was approved in 2018. Michael Clemens asked about the Prairie Island Community land purchase. Most of the property purchased is in the city of Pine Island. Three of the purchased parcels are in Oronoco Township. Oronoco Township has no information about this purchase or how the land will be used other than what was reported in the media. Mr. Clemens also asked about Oronoco Auto Parts. Per Charlie Lacy there appears to be no activity at the site.

Supervisor Ken Mergen spoke to the proposed **Sunset Bay septic and Ryan's Bay Road projects**. Joint meetings with Zumbro Township are scheduled to work out Ryan's Bay Road details. It is hoped the hill can be taken down and the road reconfigured. Sunset Bay septic, also a joint project with Zumbro Township, has encountered some funding blocks. Project engineers Wenck Associates, Sheila Craig and PFA (Public Facilities Authority) are trying to find a solution. Sheila Craig, formerly from the Southern MN Wastewater Initiative, is working on the project on a limited basis since funding for her position was lost. Michael Clemens asked if Legacy Funds are available for septic projects.

The **Proposed Levy** was discussed. The "Money Raised by Tax upon Taxable Property" was appropriated as follows: **General Revenue:** Ken Mergen made a motion to increase by 3%, making it \$71,070.00 from the previous \$69,000. Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried. **Road & Bridge:** Charlie Lacy made a motion to increase by 12.5%, making it \$558,000. from previous \$496,000. Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried. **Fire and First Responders:** Ken Mergen made a motion to increase by 8% making it \$94,500. from previous \$87,500. Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried. The total levy approved is \$723,570., an increase of 10.9%.

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**Election Results** – There were 10 voters. **Supervisor**, 3-year term – Neil Stolp, 9 votes and write in Randy Hart, 1 vote. **Treasurer**, 2-year term – Kim Stanton, 10 votes. The Board of Canvass accepted the election results at a meeting after polls closed and before the annual meeting.

A motion was made by Ken Mergen to set the **2020 Annual Meeting time, voting hours, and location** as follows: election from 5:00 - 8:00 pm with the meeting following at 8:15 pm, both at the Oronoco Community Center. Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried. There was discussion about holding the meeting and election earlier in the day. Options will be researched, for example, can the meeting and election times overlap?

A motion was made by Charlie Lacy to authorize the Town Board to spend the yearly sum of up to \$1,000.00 for the purposes of **citizen or board member recognition**. Neil Stolp seconded, motion carried.

Mary Fuller from the **Oronoco Cemetery** Board addressed those present earlier in the meeting. There was a consensus that the town board continue to support the Oronoco Cemetery, allowing for needed repairs, maintenance, and restoration.

Lance Sorenson was present on behalf of the **Oronoco Food Shelf**. He thanked the township for their support. They are open twice a month and operate from the Presbyterian Church. They receive food from Channel One and citizens. There are no criteria to receive food. They serve 40 to 45 individuals or family units each time they are open, about 470 people/family units a year. They have a core group of volunteers but persons able to carry heavy grocery boxes are always appreciated. Call 507.367.4952 for more info or to volunteer. Because of a law change Oronoco Township no longer needs a contract with them to help them financially, money can be donated. The consensus of those present was to continue support.

Michael Clemens asked about the **noxious weed management** test conducted in 2018. A test area was mowed several times at times most effective for control. No spraying was done. We will see what the mowed area looks like this year. Controlling weeds is an on-going challenge.

Michael Clemens asked about the **fire permit** process. The township discontinued issuing fire permits, referring people to the DNR. However, Olmsted County is listed as a county that doesn't require burning permits. The Town Board will research the matter.

Neil Stolp asked for thoughts on the Township's conducting their own Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings. This topic will be discussed at a regular board meeting.

At 9:35 pm a motion was made by Neil Stolp to adjourn. Charlie Lacy seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Shonyo, Clerk

Kim Stanton, Moderator