

MINUTES
MONTHLY ORONOCO TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 10, 2022 5:30 PM

[Note: The agenda was distributed with the incorrect date of January 10, 2021.]

The monthly Oronoco Town Board meeting was called to order on January 10, 2022 by Chair Charlie Lacy. Present: Supervisors Charlie Lacy, Ken Mergen and Tammy Matzke; Clerk Lucy Shonyo. Treasurer Kim Stanton was absent.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

The **agenda** was changed to place the Providentia discussion before the Boetler item.

Agenda Topics

[Before the meeting petitioner Kevin Graner provided the survey and legal description of the portion of Ryan's Bay Road the board vacated November 1, 2021. Clerk Shonyo will ask town attorney Bob Ruppe to complete the Resolution to be signed and recorded.]

Karl Schuller – Lake Zumbro Forever raffle request – Supervisor Lacy moved to endorse the application for a raffle request. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 3-0.

Providentia Drive – Chair Lacy recapped: Last month developer Steve Allen asked the Board to assume Providentia Dr since 50% of lots were built. [The Oronoco Township Subdivision Ordinance, Sec 5.0, K states: "The Township will not take possession of a road within a subdivision until fifty (50) percent of the lots within the subdivision are occupied by single family detached dwellings and the second layer (lift) of blacktop is installed per the standards of the Township Engineer.]" In the past the township has assumed roads that were not to standards resulting in considerable expense. Going forward the township will have a more diligent approach.

Chair Lacy talked with Neil Sanford at Olmsted County Public Works. Mr. Sandford recalls being involved "late in the game", and recommends an independent review of the road. No documentation of the county's assessment of the road was found.

Chair Lacy contacted Logan Tjossem, Principal Planner with Widseth, about conducting an assessment of Providentia Dr. Mr. Tjossem presented a proposal totaling \$7,250, indicating costs could be trimmed if all services weren't needed. Core sampling done now would result in cold patches that would need to be replaced when the weather warms. Supervisor Lacy noted this would be Mr. Allen's expense if he wants the work done now. Mr. Tjossem indicated a desire to work with the township on this and future projects. Being involved at the front end of projects would be more cost effective.

Supervisor Lacy moved to accept the Widseth proposal for review of Providentia Dr at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 3-0. It was noted that if further tests are found to be needed the cost could be adjusted.

Providentia Drive – continued

Mr. Tjossem will revise the proposal. He is open to participating in the spring road assessment tour and establishing templates and policy documents for future developments.

Boetler Land Use Amendment – Bill Tointon from WSE Engineering, representing

Boetler Family Trust - Mr. Tointon requested a land use change from ‘Potential Suburban Development’ to “Suburban Subdivision” for approximately 78 acres located along the east side of 18th Av NW, north of Safari Estates. This township action is a necessary precursor to an application to Olmsted County for a land use change.

Mr. Tointon noted that Olmsted County Public Works has approved an “access connection” from the Boetler property to 18th Av NW.

Supervisor Matzke moved to approve the Boelter Family Trust land designation from “potential suburban development” to “suburban development.” Supervisor Mergen second, motion carried 3-0.

Road Report – Ken Mergen

Several **mailboxes** were damaged by snow removal equipment. The township will replace these with swing posts. If something other than this is desired it will be at the homeowner’s expense.

There was discussion about damage resulting from the **wind storm on December 15** and the benefits of reporting the damage to the county. Clerk Shonyo will attend a conference call and learn more about the process.

Olmsted County Sheriff Dept notified Clerk Shonyo about an accident that took out a sign.

There was discussion about filing claims with a drivers’ insurance company to recoup costs.

Snow plow impediments – There are property owners who have erected barriers in road right of ways causing problems in snow removal. There are trees, metal posts and vehicles parked at 8855 Fitzpatrick Ln. Ridge Crest Ln has a livestock trailer parked in the ROW. The Sheriff’s Dept was called. Supervisor Lacy will contact Sargeant Chambers.

Oronoco Auto Parts Update – Supervisor Matzke - The courts have determined that court ordered cleanup is not complete. There will be a hearing in Ramsey County in mid-February. Supervisor Lacy expects to attend.

Administrative Business

Minutes Approval –

Supervisor Matzke moved to approve the December 6th minutes. Supervisor Lacy second, motion carried 3-0.

Treasurer’s Report – Clerk Shonyo for Treasurer Stanton

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of December 31, 2021 shows: receipts \$1,193,842.67; disbursements \$731,479.30 with an ending balance of \$1,275,330.31.

Treasurer Stanton provided this report:

December income was mostly reimbursement from Zumbro Township for Ryan’s Bay Rd and the MN Homestead Tax Credit.

4th Q planning fees from the county (\$1465) are expected in January.

Treasurer Stanton will carry a higher than average checking balance in the next weeks, about \$15,000.

The clerk and treasurer CTAS funds and dollars match exactly on the 2021 year end schedule 1 report. Treasurer Stanton will submit the year end report to the MN State Auditor the end of January.

The Bevcomm invoice has not been received. It will be paid from ARPA funds.

Summary of special assessments:

- Shorewood Ln paving: last payment was in 2021
- 18th Av and River Hills paving: finish in 2027
- Kings Park Septic Construction: finish 2033
- Cedar Beach Septic Construction: finish 2036

The township’s Compensation Policy states board members’ meeting compensation is paid when the board member is in attendance. Since Treasurer Stanton provided a Treasurer’s Report it was suggested he be paid. Supervisor Mergen moved to pay Treasurer Stanton meeting compensation. Supervisor Lacy second, motion carried 3-0.

Supervisor Mergen moved to accept the treasurer’s report. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 3-0.

Approval to Pay Bills

December net payroll (paid in January) totaled \$1,896.51. Claims totaled \$41,422.75. Clerk Shonyo noted that payroll check 7321 from May 2021 was voided and reissued as a claim for the net amount. The new check number is 7471.

Supervisor Mergen moved to approve payment of claims and payroll. Tammy Matzke second, motion carried 3-0.

OTPAC Report – There was no December meeting.

Election Judge Appointments - Supervisor Lacy moved to appoint Rachel Stanton, Mary Fuller and Peggy Williams to serve as election judges and the ballot board for the March 8th township election, giving the clerk authority to make substitutions if needed. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 3-0.

Annual Meeting – The 2021 annual meeting agenda was reviewed. The board will decide levy recommendations and finalize the agenda in February.

Neil Stolp provided a newspaper column by the MN Dept of Agriculture about the Cannon Valley Noxious Weed Group, a successful public/private partnership (neighboring townships, private landowners, county and state highway staff) working to control noxious weeds.

Supervisor Mergen moved to adjourn at 7:35pm. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Shonyo, Clerk

Charlie Lacy, Chair