

ORONOCO TOWN BOARD
Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2022

The monthly Oronoco Town Board meeting was called to order on October 10, 2022 at 5:30 pm by Chair Ken Mergen. Present: Supervisors Ken Mergen and Tammy Matzke; Clerk Lucy Shonyo and Treasurer Kim Stanton. Charlie Lacy retired from the Oronoco Town Board as of October 1, 2022.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

The **agenda** was accepted as presented, except to discuss the resolutions relating to Oronoco Estates / WWTF when the resolutions are available.

Agenda Topics

OR2022-002MB, Brad Jech for Clair Wittlief Estate

[This information is from the Olmsted County Planning Department document but is not the complete document.]

Request

The request is to subdivide a nonfarm parcel, not creating any new dwelling locations.

Location

The property is located at 996 115th St, within the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 14 in Oronoco Township.

Zoning

A-2 Agricultural Protection District

Background

The property has an underlying land use designation of Resource Protection. The request is to allow the tillable land to be split from the nonfarm parcel dwelling and will either go to the adjacent property owner, or be marked non-buildable on the survey. The remnant parcel with the dwelling will be 9.8 acres. No new building sites are being proposed with this request, therefore it is not necessary to review the standards for a buildable parcel in the A-2 district.

Staff Findings:

Planning Staff recommends approval of the metes and bounds to split 5.30 acres of tillable land from the existing 15.10 acre nonfarm parcel, with the following conditions:

1. The tillable land parcel must be marked non-buildable on the survey and deed; or
2. A lot combination form must be submitted with the deed so that the land is combined with the adjacent parcel.

Bradley Schultz was present on behalf of the applicant. The board had no questions for Mr. Schultz.

Supervisor Matzke moved to approve OR2022-002MB inclusive of conditions.

Supervisor Mergen second, motion carried 2-0.

Road Report

Scott Schumacher noted ditch work done on 110th St NW and 82nd St NE. Summer rain events made ditch cleaning necessary. Other necessary ditch projects are 115th St and 11th Ave (Thompson Rd) close to 82nd St. Also 125th St, ditches are full, road is washed out, culvert needs to be checked. Supervisor Mergen noted that after these projects we'll be done for the season.

Fahrner has completed 125th St and 18th Ave NW repairs.

Minnesota Ave south of County 112 was discussed at this point in the meeting and also later when Mayor Ryland Eichhorst and City Engineer Joe Palen were present. The road work being done by city contractor Fitzgerald Excavating and Trucking is not meeting township expectations. The board and others present expressed concerns about large rocks (covered by gravel) that will damage road maintenance equipment, plugged culverts (no silt fences), field drives not restored, damage to drain tiles, seeding not growing. Mr. Palen, City Engineer, noted that the completion date for the project is spring 2024; it is a work-in-progress. The board noted that snow removal equipment will be used soon, and road graders in the spring. There was discussion of having the township's road maintenance provider (Schumacher's) fix the road and charging the City of Oronoco for restoration costs. The board also discussed hiring an engineer to assess the road. There is an agreement from before the WWTF (Waste Water Treatment Facility) construction started that the road will be restored to its pre-construction condition. Supervisor Matzke will compose a letter detailing board concerns to be sent to Mayor Eichhorst and Mr. Palen.

The board discussed routine road maintenance vs road projects and how each might be defined. This requires further discussion.

Former Supervisor Charlie Lacy (retired Oct 1, 2022) previously met with **Steve Pleschourt, 9324 60th Ave NW**, about a proposed new driveway location. Supervisor Lacy recommended he hire an engineer to access safety issues. Follow-up will be done.

OTPAC – There was no September meeting.

Supervisor Mergen moved to appoint Cindy Collins to a 3-year term on OTPAC.

Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 2-0. Ms. Collins will replace Alice Flood whose term expired.

Assessment of Oronoco Estates for WWTF Services

Mayor Eichhorst and City Engineer Joe Palen presented three resolutions related to the township's assessment of the Oronoco Estates corporate owner in order to pay for WWTF services being provided by the City of Oronoco.

Resolution 2022-08 Affirming and Authorizing Township Action of Special Assessments for Phase 1A Wasterwater System Improvements to Oronoco Estates Mobile Home Community on Behalf of the City of Oronoco

WWTF Resolutions, continued

Supervisor Matzke moved to adopt Resolution 2022-08 as noted above. Supervisor Mergen second, motion carried 2-0.

Resolution 2022-09 Resolution Declaring Costs to be Assessed and Ordering the Preparation of Proposed Assessment

Supervisor Matzke moved to adopt Resolution 2022-09 as noted above. Supervisor Mergen second, motion carried 2-0.

Resolution 2022-10 Resolution Calling Hearing on Assessments for Phase 1A Wastewater System Improvements for Oronoco Estates Mobile Home Community (OEMHC)

[Public Hearing to be held Nov 14, 2022, 5:30pm at the Oronoco Township Board Meeting, Oronoco City Hall.]

Supervisor Matzke moved to adopt Resolution 2022-10 as noted above. Supervisor Mergen second, motion carried 2-0.

Treasurer Stanton will check with Olmsted County about transferring assessment monies collected directly to the City of Oronoco.

Administrative Business

Minutes Approval

Supervisor Mergen moved to approve the September 12, 2022 town board meeting minutes. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 2-0.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Stanton

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of September 30, 2022 shows: receipts \$690,223.70; disbursements \$561,370.70 with an ending balance of \$1,404,183.31.

Treasurer Stanton noted that the clerk's CTAS, the treasurer's CTAS and the bank balances match.

Supervisor Mergen moved to approve the treasurer's report. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 2-0.

Approval to Pay Bills

September net payroll (paid in October) was \$1,910.58. Claims totaled \$69,307.82.

Supervisor Mergen moved to approve payment of claims and payroll. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 2-0.

King's Park Septic Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Assessment

King's Park community septic serves 14 parcels. Each parcel has been assessed \$425/yr since the systems inception. The township's balance in the account was \$19,231.44 as of 6/30/22. The board determined that the account balance plus insurance coverage was sufficient.

Supervisor Mergen moved to keep the King's Park septic assessment at \$425/yr. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 2-0.

Cedar Beach Septic Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Assessment

King's Park community septic serves 23 parcels. Each parcel has been assessed \$475/yr since the systems inception. The township's balance in the account was \$24,580.73 as of 6/30/22. The board determined that the account balance plus insurance coverage was sufficient.

Supervisor Mergen moved to keep the Cedar Beach septic assessment at \$475/yr. Supervisor Matzke second, motion carried 2-0.

Cedar Beach Septic blower – Per Pat Loomis from Gopher Septic, the Cedar Beach septic system can run efficiently on one blower as its usage is below its design capacity. Gopher Septic has a new backup blower on-hand reserved for Cedar Beach. Cost is unknown at this point.

Road Mileage Certification – this item was moved to the November meeting.

Appointment of Election Judges – **Supervisor Matzke moved to appoint the persons recommended by Elections Administrator / Clerk Shonyo for the Nov 8, 2022 election. Supervisor Mergen second, motion carried 2-0.**

Broadband – There has been no interest expressed in the township's offer to defray costs (\$125) for underserved households to install satellite receivers. The deadline is October 15, 2022.

Driveway Policy – Supervisor Mergen will use Olmsted County's Road Access Policy as a basis for a township policy. It is thought an initial fee of \$50 would be charged to the property owner. A supervisor would assess the desired driveway location and determine if it meets safety standards as stated in our policy. If standards are not met, and the property owner wants to move forward, the property owner would be responsible to hire an engineer.

Shared Road Agreement with Zumbro Township - The township will use the agreement we have with New Haven Township for 60th Ave as a template.

Board Vacancy – There is a vacancy on the Town Board with Charlie Lacy’s retirement. Interested township residents should contact a board member.

Oronoco Auto Parts – Supervisor Matzke learned that Oronoco Auto Parts owners advertised parking available on their former auto parts location. Per Olmsted County, that property is not zoned for that use. A zone change would be required.

911 Signs – Clerk Shonyo has gotten questions about the emergency services signs that were formerly used. Their initial use was a collaboration between Pine Island Fire Department and the township. They did not have house numbers, but a number that needed to be cross-referenced against a list. The fire department has told residents they can be removed. GPS is now used for navigation.

Supervisor Matzke moved to adjourn at 8:50pm. Supervisor Mergen second, motion carried 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Shonyo, Clerk

Ken Mergen, Chair