

MINUTES
MONTHLY ORONOCO TOWN BOARD MEETING
October 7, 2019 5:30 PM

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

The monthly Oronoco Town Board Meeting was called to order on October 7, 2019 by Chair Neil Stolp. Supervisor Ken Mergen was present as well as Treasurer Kim Stanton and Clerk Lucy Shonyo. Supervisor Charlie Lacy was absent.

Kristi Gross, Olmsted County Planning, informed the board that OR2019-002MB, applicant See, was to be added to the agenda.

The **order of agenda** was changed to place OR2019-002MB after OR2019-003TA. Minutes approval will be at the end of the meeting.

Agenda Topics

OR2019-003TA – [The complete staff report can be viewed at <https://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/yourgovernment/twp/oronoco/Pages/tb.aspx> Go to the bottom of the page and select the desired report.]

Neil Stolp opened the public hearing for **OR2019-003TA**. Kristi Gross, Olmsted County Planning, explained the request and planning staff recommendations.

This action is to ““Amend Section 4.08 Section C of the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance to add a requirement that a denied variance cannot be reheard for six months following the denial.”

The Planning Staff issued this recommendation: “Amend Section 4.08 Section C of the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance to add Subdivision 10.” “No application for a variance which has been denied wholly or in part shall be resubmitted for a period of six (6) months from the date of said order of denial, except on the grounds of new evidence or proof of change of conditions found to be valid.”

Excerpts from Staff Findings:

1. The proposal is consistent with the Oronoco Township Land Use Plan. “The reason for the waiting period is to ensure that if a variance is to alleviate a violation that the violator cannot keep extending their enforcement timeline by applying for a new variance. It also ensures that the board is not seeing the same request repeatedly.”
2. This amendment is in the public interest “because public hearings impact the surrounding property owners and puts an unjust burden on neighboring properties to have repetitive variances without a change of circumstances.”
3. “The proposal is not in regards to development”.

OR2019-003TA, continued

4. "The proposal is not changing a zoning district and would apply to all property within Oronoco Township."

This action was initiated and accepted by the Oronoco Township Planning Advisory Commission (OTPAC).

Neil Stolp asked three times for comments for or against this action. There were no comments. Neil Stolp closed the public hearing.

Ken Mergen made a motion to approve OR2019-003TA based on staff findings and recommendations. Neil Stolp second. Motion carried unanimously.

OR2019-002MB, applicant See [The complete staff report can be viewed at <https://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/yourgovernment/twp/oronoco/Pages/tb.aspx>
Go to the bottom of the page and select the desired report.]

This request by Sing See is to split 2 – 2.5 acre building sites off of 40 acres located "part of the NE 1/4 of Section 34, T108N, R14W, Oronoco Township, Olmsted County, MN." This is at the corner of 85 St NW and 11 Av NW.

Kristi Gross noted that CER (Crop Equivalent Ratings) were at 55 or below.

Ken Mergen made a motion to approve OR2019-002MB. Neil Stolp second. Motion carried unanimously.

Road Report – Scott Schumacher, Neil Stolp

There are culverts to replace. Neil Stolp noted work needed on Sathre Dr and Windmere Ct.

Oronoco Auto Parts – The jointly sponsored (MPCA, Olmsted County, Oronoco Township) cleanup of Oronoco Auto Parts debris will be held October 12. River and lake-front property owners will receive a letter with a voucher that is needed to utilize waste receptacles. Neil Stolp noted the need for "one voice" in this process. Questions should be directed to MPCA.

Members of the Rough Riders club have volunteered to help move debris from homeowners' property to the collection site. Some were present to ask for more information about their part in this effort. Lucy Shonyo will contact the MPCA asking them to get in touch with the Rough Rider contact person. She also asked that Rough Rider members who assist complete an Oronoco Township Volunteer Services Agreement. This agreement will be emailed to the Rough Rider contact person.

Ryans Bay Road - Oronoco Township closed on the property Sept 26. Kim Stanton submitted an invoice to Zumbro Township for their part of the property and closing costs. Ken Mergen will contact Mike Zillgitt, Zillgitt Civil Design, about submitting a proposal for construction engineering services. Lucy Shonyo will contact Zumbro Township about getting the same from Dietrich Flesch, Wabasha County Engineer. Dietrich Flesch will stake the ROWs. Neil Stolp and Lucy Shonyo will attend the bid opening in Wabasha Oct 16. There is a joint meeting of the Zumbro and Oronoco boards to consider awarding the construction contract Oct 21.

Cedar Beach road ditches – Citizens from the Cedar Beach area were present to voice concern about “3 dump loads” of dirt and sand from the road deposited into ditches that may run into the river. Scott Schumacher will talk to his road grater about this.

Cedar Beach parking violations – Cedar Beach residents expressed concern about vehicles and boats routinely parked on Cedar Beach Drive making winter driving hazardous. Oronoco Township has Parking Ordinance #1116A prohibiting this parking. The ordinance will be distributed to Cedar Beach owners and renters, with law enforcement followup if necessary. Alice Flood agreed to help with ordinance distribution.

Administrative Business

Treasurer’s Report – Kim Stanton

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of September 31, 2019 shows: Receipts \$498,719.52 and Disbursements \$654,055.23 with an ending balance of \$350,685.47. September net payroll (paid in Oct) totaled \$2,134.84, bills totaled \$13,481.86. There is a discrepancy due to the loss checks from 2018 that were voided and reissued last month. Since they were from 2018, the dollars carried forward into 2019 is incorrect. Kim Stanton and Lucy Shonyo will make the necessary CTAS corrections. [Checks were 6633 from Aug 2018 and 6654 from Sept 2018.] Ken Mergen made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. Neil Stolp second, motion carried unanimously.

Approval to Pay Bills - Claims totaling \$13,481.86 and net payroll totaling \$2,134.86 were presented for payment. Neil Stolp made a motion to approve claims and payroll payments. Ken Mergen second, motion carried unanimously.

Cedar Beach, Kings Park Septic O&M Review – Kim Stanton

Each October the board looks at the Operation and Maintenance income and expenses of the township’s two community septic systems to see if special assessment adjustments are needed. [Cedar Beach pursuant to Resolution OR10217 enacted Oct 2, 2017. Kings Park Pursuant to Resolution OR111014A, enacted Nov 10, 2014.]

Cedar Beach, Kings Park Septic O&M Review – Kim Stanton, continued

Kings Park – Expenses were more than anticipated and will be researched before a decision is made. A decision will be made on November 4.

Cedar Beach - Actual income matched expected income (\$10,925), and there is a healthy account balance. Kim Stanton recommends no change to the O&M fees. Neil Stolp made a motion to keep Cedar Beach O&M fees at \$475 for 23 properties. Ken Mergen second, motion carried unanimously.

Forfeited Land – There was one Oronoco Township parcel on the tax forfeited land list from Olmsted County. Ken Mergen will research this parcel. A decision will be made at the November 4 meeting.

OT-PAC Report – Member Alice Flood told of the September 23 informational tour by Milestone Materials of the Goldberg Quarry and future Goose Rock Quarry. OTPAC and Town Board members attended.

MATiT Insurance Review – Kim Stanton

Kim Stanton and Lucy Shonyo talked with our insurance agent about possible changes needed. It was recommended the township insure control panels at Cedar Beach and Kings Park septic sites at \$10,000 each, and to also insure miscellaneous road signs and the clerks computer. This added coverage will cost \$69/year. Ken Mergen made a motion to add these items to our MATiT insurance policy. Neil Stolp second, motion carried unanimously.

Uncle John’s Tavern Liquor License – Owner John Stancyk asked the board to affirm Olmsted County’s granting of his liquor license renewal. The board affirmed and the application was signed.

Adopt A Highway Followup – Clerk Lucy Shonyo was asked to find out if this program could be applied to township roads. Per MAT attorney Steve Fenske this would be a volunteer services arrangement. He recommends having volunteers complete a volunteer services agreement.

Township Road Mileage – This annual report from Olmsted County Public Works did not reflect the changes submitted last year. Neil Stolp asked the board to look for additional changes, and also determine mileage of roads added to the report. It will be approved in November.

Rural Broadband Update – Kim Stanton

There is state grant money available for broadband infrastructure for underserved areas. Grant dollars are matched by local funds. Bevcomm and Jaeger Communications, both providers in our service area, have utilized grant funding for awarded projects. This isn’t cost free for consumers. Oronoco Township will explore how this could be funded.

Mark Kuehn was present to express his support for, and willingness to offer land for a trial run of the **Tiny Homes initiative**. The Township is interested in learning more about this housing option with interested parties and Olmsted County.

Driveway Permits – Oronoco Township is exploring starting a driveway permit process in order to manage access to township roads. The board reviewed the Olmsted County form. This will be discussed again in November.

Letter to law enforcement – The board briefly discussed contracting with the county for additional law enforcement. This will be taken up in November.

PIFD Pumper Truck Purchase – There are five member townships in the Pine Island Fire District. The PIFD Board is looking for consensus to purchase a new pumper. There would have to be a significant increase in the fire levy to support the purchase of the truck and, at the same time, maintain a new equipment fund. Fire service is important to citizens and trucks won't get cheaper. Ken Mergen made a motion to support the purchase of the truck. Neil Stolp second, motion carried unanimously.

Ryans Bay Road Recognition Event – Ken Mergen made a motion to approve a recognition event for invited guests instrumental in getting this project (almost) done. Neil Stolp second, motion carried unanimously. Funding for recognition events is authorized annually by electors at the Annual Meeting.

Minutes Approval –

Neil Stolp made a motion to approve the minutes of the **September 3, 2019** monthly meeting. Ken Mergen second, motion carried unanimously.

Ken Mergen made a motion to approve the minutes of the **September 12, 2019 joint special meeting with Zumbro Township**. Neil Stolp second, motion carried unanimously.

Neil Stolp made a motion to approve the minutes of the **September 16, 2019 special meeting**. Ken Mergen second, motion carried unanimously.

Neil Stolp made a motion to approve the minutes of the **September 23, 2019 special meeting**. Ken Mergen second, motion carried unanimously.

Neil Stolp made a motion to adjourn at 9:15pm. Ken Mergen second, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lucy Shonyo, Clerk

Neil Stolp, Chair