

**ORONOCO TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2018 8:15 PM**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The annual Oronoco Township meeting was called to order on March 13, 2018 at 8:15 PM by clerk Lucy Shonyo. There were 24 people present. Kim Stanton presided as moderator. The agenda was accepted as presented.

The **Minutes** of the March 14, 2017 Annual Meeting were read. A motion was made by Rachel Stanton to accept the minutes as read. Brett Jenkinson seconded, motion carried.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented in written form. Treasurer, Kim Stanton, went over the 2017 Financial Report explaining some of the significant activities & accomplishments. The township has Special Assessments for Shorewood Lane Paving, and Kings Park Septic, Cedar Beach Septic, River Hill Paving and the 18th Ave Extension Paving. Accomplishments include continued support of the Oronoco Food Shelf and Oronoco Cemetery. The Township spent \$151,258.00 on chip/crack repair and chloride on the township roads and an additional \$304,269.00 on road maintenance and repair. The Cedar Beach Septic Project has been completed. Planning is underway for the Sunset Bay Septic Project. Discussions have begun with Zumbro Township, Wabasha County on a joint project to improve Ryan's Bay Road. Ron Haglund made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Theda Lyke seconded, motion carried.

Supervisor Neil Stolp spoke to **Roads**. No blacktopping is planned. Roads are well-maintained through annual chip sealing and crack repair, and chloride application. Snow removal costs are always dependent on the winter and can vary greatly. Funds are needed to cover potential costs. If the Ryan's Bay Road project goes forward as hoped it will be a big expense (to be shared with Zumbro Township). Financial details about that project are unknown as of now. They will be negotiated between Oronoco and Zumbro Townships.

Pine Island Fire District Chief Brandon Sather and Safety Director Pat Pike spoke to the Township's **fire protection**. Oronoco Township, four other Townships and the City of Pine Island make up the district. Oronoco Township constitutes 17% of the calls. Citizens are charged \$750.00 per call. The citizens present thanked the fire department for their services.

First Responder Director Jeff Allhiser and Assistant Chris Inman were present to speak to **First Responder coverage**. He reports 62 calls from the Township and 36 from the City in 2017. They are usually the first on the scene; Gold Cross is also dispatched. They assist and do needed transporting. Maps and GPS are used to locate addresses. Citizens are urged to make their location visible by turning on lights. Citizens present thanked the First Responder's for their services.

Supervisor Charlie Lacy spoke about Oronoco Planning Advisory Commission (**OPAC**). They recently approved the plan for the Providentia development. They are conducting a review of their By-Laws.

The **Proposed Budget** was discussed at length. The *“Money Raised by Tax upon Taxable Property”* was appropriated as follows: **General Revenue**: After much discussion Ron Haglund made a motion to increase by 9.5%, making it \$69,000.00 from the previous \$63,000.00. Ken Mergen seconded, motion carried. **Road & Bridge**: After much discussion, Theda Lyke made a motion to increase by 12.7%, making it \$496,000.00 from previous \$440,000.00. Ron Haglund seconded, motion carried. **Fire and First Responders**: After discussion, Ken Mergen made a motion to increase by 4.2% making it \$87,500.00 from previous \$84,000.00. Brett Jenkinson seconded, motion carried.

The **election results** are as follows: 39 voters. **Supervisor**, three year term – Ken Mergen 25 votes and Richard Lyke 13 votes. **Clerk**, two year term – Lucy Shonyo 37 votes. The Canvassing Board accepted the election results by motion.

A motion was made by Ken Mergen to set the **2019 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. Ron Haglund seconded, motion carried.

A motion was made by Ken Mergen to authorize the Town Board to spend the yearly sum of \$1,000.00 for the purposes of **citizen or board member recognition**. Brett Jenkinson seconded, motion carried.

Theda Lyke made a motion to dedicate \$2,500.00 to the **Oronoco Cemetery** for repairs, maintenance, and restoration. Ron Haglund seconded, motion carried.

Lance Sorenson spoke about the **Oronoco Food Shelf**. They operate from the Presbyterian Church, are open twice a month, and serve the NW corner of Olmsted County. They receive food from Channel One and citizens. There are no criteria to receive food. Oronoco Township has a contract with them for \$50 per opening. Ken Mergen made a motion to increase the contract amount to \$60 per opening, for 25 openings, totaling a maximum of \$1,500.00. Mike Clemens seconded, motion carried.

Noxious weed management was discussed at length. It was noted that a public ad campaign was needed, as all citizens and government entities must control noxious weeds to be effective long-term. Mowing vs spraying was discussed, with the inherent challenges of each method of control. A motion was made by Mike Clemens to authorize the Town Board to select a “stretch” of township road right of way that is “bad”, to have it mowed four times in the 2018 growing season, with the mowing done at times most effective for control. Ken Mergen seconded, motion carried. The Town Board will select the site, the distance, and will consult with citizen Angela Smith as to the best times to mow. This is a test situation for 2018.

The **Township website** and what citizens would like to see was discussed. Having an alert status was mentioned so citizens could register to be notified when new things were posted. Also, providing bios of and statements from people running for Township offices, so citizens could better decide who most closely aligns with their priorities.

Ken Mergen, newly elected Supervisor, was asked to say a few words about himself. He lives on Sunset Bay Road and has been an Oronoco Township resident for 20 years. He is an Industrial Mechanic, works in Rochester, is married and has 2 children.

Richard Lyke was recognized and thanked for his 27 years as an Oronoco Township Supervisor. He was first elected to the Town Board in 1991. He has seen many changes and has contributed his time and knowledge to many Township and Olmsted County boards. His years of service and resulting knowledge are commendable.

Additional Comments from the floor: Ken Mergen stated Sunset Bay Road improvement are still a priority: as a minimum, safer access from Ryan's Bay Road and hopefully taking down "the hill".

Neil Stolp, Oronoco Town Board Chair, noted that a very few citizens make decisions that affect the Township at the Annual Meeting. Citizens were thanked for their interest and presence.

At 10:30pm Brett Jenkinson made a motion to adjourn. Theda Lyke seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Shonyo, Clerk