Oronoco Town Board

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oronoco Town Board held on **Monday, March 11, 2024** at 5:30p.m. at the Oronoco Community Center, located at 115 Second Street SW, Oronoco, Minnesota.

Supervisor Ken Mergen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**The agenda was accepted as written with the addition of adding Jered from TCPA, Township Cooperative Planning Association, to the beginning of the meeting.**

**TCPA**

Jered from TCPA, Township Cooperative Planning Association, addressed the board with regard to the letter that was sent to T&M Properties and Tony Drahos, from Olmsted County Planning Department, dated March 11, 2024. Jered stated that the square footage to a building is the main floor and adding a loft area would not change the footprint of the building. TCPA would recommend approval of the zoning certificate as this building is permitted for personal storage.

Citizen Lynn Koenig stated that this is not an accessory building and there should not have been approval for the building where it was.

Supervisor Matzke stated she would feel more comfortable if this was brought before OTPAC. OTPAC has worked months on the CUP for T&M Properties. Supervisor Matzke asked Jered from TCPA to attend the next OTPAC meeting, Monday March 18, 2024 at 6pm, where this could be discussed further.

Supervisor Mergen asked Jered how the transfer was going with Olmsted County Planning to TCPA. Jered stated that the transfer is still ongoing and TCPA is slowly piecing things together. Jered stated that they have had citizens showing up for building permits and zoning questions so word has spread about the transfer to TCPA.

**Demarino Driveway Application**

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the driveways for Demarino Properties, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Oronoco First Responders**

Supervisor Johanningmeier has been working with Chris Inman, Oronoco First Responders, to come up with a budget that is acceptable to Oronoco Township and the Oronoco First Responders. Previous City Administrator Sunny Bjorklund Schultz sent a letter, to Oronoco Township, requesting a yearly budget of $40,000. This is up from the $8,000 in the contact. Supervisor Johanningmeier stated he knows that the number of calls has increased as the township has grown about 10% in the last 12 years.

There are 3 entities that serve Oronoco Township for emergency response: Mayo Clinic, the transport service; Oronoco First Responders; and Pine Island Fire Department. Pine Island Fire Department is the response team for Oronoco Township. They can request mutual aid and then Oronoco First Responders would be called to assist if needed. Oronoco First Responders would also offer rehab for Pine Island Fire Fighters at the scene.

Supervisor Matzke stated that Oronoco Township has a joint power agreement, with 5 other entities, with the Pine Island Fire Department and First Responders.

Chris Inman stated the Oronoco First Responders are trying to bring back the financials to their department. This has been done by City of Oronoco in the past.

Supervisor Johanningmeier went back 12 years and is suggesting an annual contribution of up to $14, 300 for the remainder of 2024. He is suggesting the wording of the previous contract be changed so that this is reviewed and renewed annually for a fiscal year, which runs from April 1-April 1.

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to make a recommendation at the annual meeting for a contribution of up to $14,300, for the fiscal year of 2024, to the Oronoco First Responders, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Road Report**

Supervisor Mergen has had preliminary discussions with Bargen for redoing some of the blacktop roads. There are approximately 20 miles of blacktop in the township. Supervisor Mergen has also contacted Logan from Widseth Engineering to ask for assistance with engineering and grant writing to make some of these road projects happen. This discussion will continue at next months meeting when more information becomes available.

Supervisor Mergen stated there was a citizen phone call about ditch work on 90th St. Schumacher has been working on 90th St cleaning ditches. They will clean culverts and see if any need replacing.

Schumacher replaced a field driveway on 50th St.

Supervisor Mergen would like Schumacher to get an estimate to the township for cutting down the hill on 125th St. There will be discussion on this at next months meeting.

125th St in open early because of the early spring. Schumacher removed barricades last week.

Schumacher would like to begin replacing road signs around the township. The total cost to do this would be $5,100. The cost of the road signs would be $2,800.

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve replacing road signs around the township, with work done by Schumacher Excavating, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Minutes Approval**

**February 12, 2024**

**There was a motion by Supervisor Matzke to approve the minutes for February 12, 2024 monthly meeting, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Board of Audit Meeting Minutes**

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to approve the board of audit meeting minutes for February 12, 2024, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Treasurer’s Report-Brandi Lind**

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of February 29, 2024 shows: receipts $67,926.80, disbursements $201,408.15 with an ending balance of$1,676,675.15.

**ARPA**

Treasurer Lind attended a webinar for ARPA. She found out there are other townships having trouble getting access to the SAM.gov website. Treasurer Lind and Clerk Schroeder still have access to the website. All reports for ARPA funds must be submitted by March 29, 2024. Treasurer Lind is working on figuring out how to submit these reports. Once the 2023 funds have been submitted work can begin to submit report for 2024.

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the treasurers report in written form, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Approval to pay payroll and claims including electronic transfer**

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the payroll and claims, including electronic transfers, for March 11, 2024, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Election Administration**

**There was a motion by Supervisor Matzke to pay the elections administrator $30/hour, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Schedule Acceptance of Quotes**

Supervisor Matzke stated that the request for quotes for 2024 not be published.

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to accept the request for quotes as written, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Reorg Meeting**

The reorg meeting will be April 8, 2024 at 7pm.

**OTPAC**

The 85th St Milestone Quarry is going through the permitting process for an asphalt plant. They are working with the DNR and having soil testing done. The land the quarry is on is in a trust. The quarry may want to move the site farther way from homes if the land is ever sold.

**Appointment of Lori Berg and Angela Smith to OTPAC, 3-year term**

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to appoint Lori Berg and Angela Smith to OTPAC for another 3-year term, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**Clerk notes**

The Township election will be Tuesday March 12 for 5-8pm. The annual meeting will be Tuesday March 12 beginning at 8:15pm.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting will be April 15 from 4-4:30pm at Oronoco City Hall. This will be published on March 30, 2024 in the Post Bulletin.

**There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to adjourn the meeting, second by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.**

Respectfully Submitted:

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Clerk Jody Schroeder Tammy Matzke

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Ken Mergen Joel Johanningmeier