

Oronoco Town Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2024

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oronoco Town Board held on **Monday, September 9, 2024** at 5:30p.m. at the Oronoco Community Center, located at 115 Second Street SW, Oronoco, Minnesota.

Supervisor Tammy Matzke called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Supervisor Ken Mergen is absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Oronoco Township Zoning Text Amendment, Article 6

In a continued effort to update their zoning ordinance, the Oronoco Township Planning Commission has found a need to revise the establishment and location of newly created residential districts. The current version of Oronoco Township's Zoning Ordinance, updated May 19, 2022, permits residential districts to be created near agricultural operations. The current language has led to undesirable uses that do not meet the intent of the ordinance. Additionally, it was found the language describing allowed uses should be modernized.

The Oronoco Township Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 19, 2024 to address these concerns, revised Article 6 as appropriate, and recommends approval of the proposed text amendment.

Amendment Findings:

1. The proposal is consistent with the policies of the Olmsted County General Land Use Plan.

The proposed changes to the Ordinance are consistent with the goals and policies of the Olmsted County General Land Use Plan. The purpose of the text amendment is to allow for greater freedom of farming uses in the agricultural districts and restrict undesirable uses in the other mentioned zoning districts.

2. The amendment is in the public interest.

Amending the ordinance provides the township an opportunity to protect their constituents by restricting uses that may negatively impact the use and enjoyment of neighboring properties.

3. The proposed development is timely based on surrounding land uses, proximity to development, and the availability and adequacy of infrastructure.

This finding does not pertain to the specific text amendment.

4. Proximity to development, and the availability and adequacy of infrastructure.

This finding does not pertain to the specific text amendment.

5. The proposal permits land uses within the proposed district that are appropriate on the property and compatible with adjacent uses and the neighborhood.

This finding does not pertain to the specific text amendment.

6. The proposal does not result in spot zoning.

This finding does not pertain to the specific text amendment.

7. The proposal is consistent with a General Development Plan for the area, if one exists.

This finding does not pertain to the specific text amendment.

Conclusion:

TCPA staff considers the proposed changes consistent with County regulations and recommends consideration and adoption of said changes.

This information was taken from the TCPA packet and is only a portion of the document. The entire document can be found at TCPA or the Oronoco Township Clerk, Jody Schroeder.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve Resolution 2024-07, Oronoco Township Zoning Text Amendment, Article 6, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

TCPA Bylaws

At the Wednesday, August 14th, 2024, TCPA Board meeting there was additional discussion concerning the amendment of the TCPA by-laws. A review by one member Township revealed two more items that needed to be changed. In Article VI; item G., it states that Robert's Rules of Order should govern Association meetings. MATS encourages Townships to shy away from adopting Robert's Rules because of its inherent complexities and the potential for lawsuits if the rules aren't followed to the letter. (See article VI for the proposed change.) Article IX talks about public hearings that may be held by the TCPA Board. It was decided that the TCPA Board would not hold public hearings because the TCPA Board does not make decisions of that nature. It was decided that ARTICLE IX should be struck in its entirety and that ARTICLE X should be moved up to article nine.

This information was taken from the TCPA packet and is only a portion of the document. The entire document can be found at TCPA or the Oronoco Township Clerk, Jody Schroeder.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to approve the TCPA Bylaw Changes, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance

The intent of this letter is to explain recent updates to local ordinances regarding Floodplain and Shoreland Management. Minnesota State Statutes have established that Floodplain and Shoreland ordinances adopted by municipalities are invalid unless they are approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Review of local ordinances and procedures were prompted by a revision to the Olmsted County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and affected Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) completed on September 21, 2023. TCPA and Olmsted County have cooperated with the DNR to gain approval of a county wide Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance. This ordinance was adopted by Olmsted County Board of Commissioners on September 5, 2023 as Chapter 3750 – Floodplain and Shoreland Ordinance, under Olmsted County Ordinance No. 23-5. The attached MOU outlines the relationship between TCPA member townships and Olmsted County. With these new changes, Townships have the following options regarding Floodplain and Shoreland administration:

- a. Accept the County's ordinance and MOU as presented.
- b. Request revisions to the MOU before accepting the terms and conditions.
- c. Begin the process of adopting new Floodplain and Shoreland ordinances as outlined in attachments 3&4.

This information was taken from the TCPA packet and is only a portion of the document. The entire document can be found at TCPA or the Oronoco Township Clerk, Jody Schroeder.

Supervisors Johanningmeier and Matzke agreed that they would like TCPA to move forward with writing a Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinance for Oronoco Township.

Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the November 5, 2024 Election

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the November 5, 2024 Election, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Snowplowing and Lighting Agreement with the City of Oronoco

Supervisor Matzke is working with Attorney Ruppe to draft a contract for future snowplowing and electric with the City of Oronoco, which will be billed quarterly. This contract will be drafted at the Township's expense and sent to the City of Oronoco for review.

The current invoices from the City of Oronoco for snowplowing and electric will not be paid at this time.

Supervisor Matzke will look into placement of lights in Township areas and see if it would be better to receive a bill directly from People's Energy Cooperative for lights on Township Properties.

Supervisor Mergen will call Jason Ottman and see if Oronoco Township can be billed separately for plowing of Township roads.

This will be added to the agenda for October 14, 2024.

Road Status Report for the Minnesota Department of Transportation

This will be added to the October 13, 2024 agenda. Treasurer Lind will reach out to previous Treasurer Kim Stanton to find out how to update changes to the map.

Road Report

Scott Schumacher stated that new stop signs were installed at King's Park. There was a washout fixed at King's Park.

Citizen Del Mergen, Sunset Bay Lane NE, would like to have a culvert put in on his property when the ditch work is done on Sunset Bay Road. He is concerned that the current driveway will be too steep once ditch work is done on Sunset Bay Road. Mr. Mergen stated that he is willing to pay for the culvert and installation. Scott Schumacher stated that ditch work on Sunset Bay Road will likely begin in October or November 2024.

Supervisor Johanningmeier sent road spraying maps to Clerk Schroeder for spring and fall spraying. Supervisor Johanningmeier stated that North Star Companies will begin fall ditch spraying next week. Supervisor Johanningmeier called Chris from Joint Powers Mowing and was told ditch mowing for the fall won't begin for around three weeks depending on the weather.

Minutes Approval

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

Treasurer's Report-Brandi Lind

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of August 31, 2024 shows: receipts \$580,376.49, disbursements \$923,266.88 with an ending balance of \$1,467,266.11.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to move \$4,500 from the Ameriprise cash reserve fund to the Fidelity Money Market account, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke 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 transfers

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the payroll and claims, including electronic transfers, for September 9, 2024, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

OTPAC

Supervisor Matzke stated that they have been working on reviewing and updating Article 6 of the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance. At the next OTPAC meeting, September 16, 2024, they will be working on short term rental agreements.

The land use plan amendment for the Waters of Sator Dalon's Bay was denied by the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners at the public hearing on Thursday September 5, 2024.

Clerk Notes

Election Administrator Lucy Shonyo submitted her expenses directly to the City of Oronoco and Oronoco Township for expenses from the PNP Election March 2024. The township was to pay 59% and the City of Oronoco to pay 41% to Administrator Shonyo. The City of Oronoco paid Oronoco Township a total of \$1484.05 in May 2024. This total included \$58.79 for expenses which should have been paid to Administrator Shonyo and \$1425.26 for election judge pay. Administrator Shonyo will be reimbursed \$58.79, from Oronoco Township, for PNP election expenses that were mistakenly sent from the City of Oronoco to Oronoco Township.

People's Energy Cooperative mixed-up payment for Cedar Beach and King's Park Septic, the payments were reversed on the accounts. Clerk Schroeder has been working with Shelley Boettcher to correct this error. Ms. Boettcher suggested dropping off payment directly at People's Energy Cooperative in Oronoco instead of mailing to remittance center in Boone, IA, to prevent this error from happening in the future.

Supervisor Mergen stated to Clerk Schroeder that Supervisors do not reply all to emails. The emails are sent to Clerk and then forwarded to members of the board. This is due to the open meeting laws.

Supervisor Mergen told Clerk Schroeder that Barga had finished the project. The full bid was done. Supervisor Mergen will give a full report next month. The invoice will not be paid until the Oct meeting. Supervisor Mergen already discussed this with Barga.

Hemann and Grover charged \$175 to transfer bank accounts from Frandsen Bank to Eagle Rock Bank. This transfer includes information for payroll related payments and reporting functions.

Checks 10024, 10025, 10026, and 10027 were spoiled. There was a printing error while Clerk Schroeder was processing claims.

The November monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday November 13, 2024. Veteran's Day will be observed on Monday November 11, 2024.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Matzke stated that there has been no activity at Oronoco Auto Parts. The boring is complete. There is another court date in a couple of weeks. Supervisor Matzke will have more to report at the October 14, 2024 meeting.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

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Respectfully Submitted:

Clerk Jody Schroeder

Tammy Matzke

Ken Mergen

Joel Johanningmeier