

Oronoco Town Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2024

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oronoco Town Board held on **Monday, December 9, 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 presented.

Olmsted County Elections

Amanda Kiefer, Olmsted County Elections, addressed the board to discuss moving Township Elections from March to November each year. This would increase voter turn out because citizens would be voting for County, State and Federal Elections in November as well. There are currently 27 absentee voters in Oronoco Township, this number is only going to increase. Olmsted County Elections will send out absentee ballots because of voter agreement signed by Oronoco Township.

If the Township Board decides to sign a resolution to move elections from March to November, there would need to be a ballot question presented to voters on March 11, 2024. The next township election would then be November 2026, if approved by voters.

- Seat A, reelection in 2026, would be on the ballot in 2026-2030.
- Seat B, reelection in 2027, would be on the ballot in 2028-2032.
- Seat C, reelection in 2025, would be on the ballot in 2028-2032.
- Treasurer reelection in 2025, would be on ballot for 2026-2030.
- Clerk reelection in 2026, would be on the ballot 2028-2032.

Air Strip Acres, Kinsella

On November 11th, 2024, Mr. Kinsella of Airstrip Acres, LLC informed Township Cooperative Planning Association (TCPA) of intentions to apply for an amendment to Olmsted County's Land Use Plan. The proposed amendment will redesignate approximately 76 acres from Resource Protection to Suburban Development. Airstrip Acres, LLC is aware of the Township's development moratorium, active through July 10th 2025, and understands any future development applications will be subject to the regulations in place at that time.

Jered, TCPA, has requested a site plan or development plan, he has not received one yet. Based on the lack of information provided to the Township Board, this will be tabled until January 13, 2025.

Greenslade/August Driveway

Mr. Greenslade, present at the meeting, would like a 2nd access from his property off of 85th St. Jered Staton, TCPA, stated that per the Oronoco Township Ordinance, there must be a variance

to create a second access which also requires a public hearing. Jered with TCPA will work with Mr. Greenslade on this variance.

Supervisor Mergen addressed concerns with backing off of 85th St because of traffic. Supervisor Mergen would like to see a hammerhead created in the driveway so homeowner is not backing in off of 85th St.

This will be added to the agenda for January 13, 2025.

Road Report

Schumacher stated that work is complete on 11th Ave, 85th St, and the culvert replaced on 125th St. He stated that the frost is about 12" deep so work will hold off on Sunset Bay Road.

Supervisor Johanningmeier stated that Olmsted County will be doing a 2025 pavement preservation project. Roadways included in this project are Cty Rd 114, Fisherman's Inn, Cty Rd 112, 85th St West, and 18th Ave. There will also be rumble strips added on Cty Rd 12 going West.

Demarino

Mr. Demarino, present at the meeting, asked if Supervisor Mergen had been out to look at the driveways again. Supervisor Mergen stated he has not heard back from Darren with Widseth Engineering. Supervisor Mergen suggested that the secondary approach be moved off to the East. Mr. Demarino will contact Jason Ottman about site lines and make sure that they are following MN Department of Transportation guidelines.

Snowplowing Agreement with the City of Oronoco

Supervisor Johanningmeier recommended that Oronoco Township pay 4.5% of the total invoice. The total invoice was \$9,378.43 for snowplowing that was done from December 2022-March 2024.

Clerk Schroeder will send an email to Jason Baker, Oronoco City Administrator, stating that this is a good faith payment and moving forward Oronoco Township will be billed directly from Jason Ottman for snow removal.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to pay the City of Oronoco \$4,500, in good faith for snowplowing done from December 2022-March 2024, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Resolution Designating Annual Polling Place, Resolution 2024-13

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to sign Resolution 2024-13, Designating Annual Polling Place, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

River Hills Court Paving

In 2017, ten residents loaned money from the Township at a rate of 4.5%, for paving. This assessment will be done in 2027. Treasurer Lind will leave River Hills Court Paving on CTAS until the assessment is complete in 2027.

Pine Island Fire Department

Supervisor Matzke provided the board with a Pine Island Fire Department budget worksheet. Rural response is increasing by \$3,000. There are 5 townships that divide the cost of the rural response budget.

Minutes Approval

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the minutes for Wednesday, November 13, 2024, monthly meeting, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report-Brandi Lind

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Balances as of November 30, 2024 shows: receipts \$602,347.09, disbursements \$985,030.65 with an ending balance of \$1,427,472.94.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the treasurers report in written form, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. 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 for the board and general elections and claims, including electronic transfers, for December 9, 2024 seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

OTPAC

Supervisor Matzke stated that there was another meeting with Bolton and Menk. They are developing a tiered approach to the land use plan. There will be another meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024.

Clerk Notes

Deputy Clerk Shonyo would like to be done with Elections. She will not help with Election judging at the Township level. She may look into helping at Olmsted County Elections in the future.

Deputy Clerk Shonyo would like to finish the records at City Hall. She would consider remaining Deputy Clerk, if the board would like, until she has finished records.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to extend Deputy Clerk position to Lucy Shonyo until the completion of file organizing at City Hall, she will be compensated \$30/hr for this work, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Clerk Schroeder received a check for \$218.70 for damages done to road sign and post at Lions Court NW and Cedar Court NW.

Clerk Schroeder received a check from the City of Oronoco for \$2,955.91 for 41% of the general elections held on November 5, 2024.

Beginning in 2025, the claims for the board will be combined on the payroll checks. The claim amount will be listed as a lined item and will not be taxed.

Clerk Schroeder is working on drafting resolutions for the operation and maintenance of King's Park and Cedar Beach assessments. She has sent the drafts to MAT attorney for review and guidance.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Johanningmeier attended the OCTOA meeting. Discussions included the land use plan meeting to be held at Olmsted County on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. There were also discussions about EMS funding, transportation funding, and wells in Olmsted County.

Township Day at the State Capitol will be Monday, January 27, 2025. Olmsted County is encouraging attendance and providing bussing to the Capitol. There will be trainings, speakers, and impactful meetings with state legislators to advocate for important township priorities.

Oronoco Township will host the OCTOA meeting March 27, 2025 with Rochester Township. Supervisor Johanningmeier will communicate with Rochester Township to see if they will host the meeting and Oronoco Township will bring refreshments. Supervisor Matzke will attend.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Clerk Jody Schroeder

Tammy Matzke

Ken Mergen

Joel Johanningmeier