

**ORONOCO TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2024 8:15 PM**

The Oronoco Township annual meeting was **called to order** on March 12, 2024 at 8:15 pm by Clerk Jody Schroeder. There were 14 people present. Treasurer Brandi Lind was moderator.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

Moderator Lind noted that to offer or second motions, or to vote, attendees need to be residents of Oronoco Township and qualified voters in Minnesota.

The agenda was accepted as presented with a change to move the Oronoco Food Shelf to the top of the reports.

These documents were available: proposed agenda, minutes of the 2023 annual meeting, 2023 Board of Audit minutes, 2023 Financial Report including road expenditures, levy information, township accomplishments and challenges.

The meeting paused to allow time for attendees to read the **2023 minutes**.

The **Board of Audit** met February 12, 2024. The minutes of that meeting were available. The monthly process of reconciling financial accounts between the clerk and the treasurer was noted. No irregularities were found.

Treasurer Brandi Lind reviewed the 2023 Financial Report explaining some significant activities and expenditures. Oronoco Township's total revenue was \$968,625.34, disbursements \$793,571.18 with an ending balance of \$1,725,797.86. There were no ARPA funds received in 2023. Liabilities include the notes for King's Park Septic (\$28,389.75) and Cedar Beach Septic (\$156,742.16). These two notes comprise all of the township's debt. The township has special assessments in place for these septic projects as well as road projects River Hill and 18th Ave Extension.

Significant 2023 accomplishment were diversifying investments to build a better return on tax payer dollars. There was road work done on River Ridge and patchwork on Sattre Drive. There were two new developments, Boelter Estates and Aspen Ridge. There was a big ditch cleanup project done on 11th Ave.

Reports

Roads-Supervisor Ken Mergen reported that the snow removal budget was used for road repairs and ditch clean up due to lack of snow. There were several trees removed due to ash bore. Some road signs will be replaced because of wear or not reflective.

Oronoco Food Shelf – Director Jeff Gisi was present. OFS has served 823 households, serving 507 seniors, 1,093 adults and 766 youth. OFS has distributed 47,447 pounds of food. OFS is open the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30pm. Director Gisi thanked the township for their financial support.

Pine Island Fire District (PIFD) – Fire Chief Brandon Sather and Treasurer Dave Friese were present. There were 38 calls in the township; structure fires, car fires, lift assists. There are generally 12 responders per call. This is the first time in 8 years that the department is fully staffed. The fire district includes 5 townships. The rates are determined by population of the jurisdiction served and assessed property values.

Oronoco First Responders – Chris Inman and Johann Sonnenberg were present. OFR responded to 122 calls in Oronoco Township. OFR added 10 first responders in 2023. There are 26 staff; 11EMR, 14 EMT, and 1 paramedic. OFR has added a new first responder vehicle, a new 6-wheeler and a new KME Engine. OFR offered a CPR class and with City of Oronoco and Oronoco Township Residents.

OTPAC (Oronoco Township Planning Advisory Commission) – Supervisor Tammy Matzke represents the township on OTPAC. There are 7 members appointed to OTPAC. OTPAC meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6pm at Oronoco City Hall. Last year OTPAC issued 99 building permits. OTPAC put a Township wide moratorium in place for building in the Township. This was to slow things down and create a land use plan for the township. Balancing development with maintaining agricultural land is a priority.

March 1, 2024, TCPA, Township Cooperative Planning Association, will be administering building and zoning process.

The "Money Raised by Tax upon Taxable Property" was appropriated as follows:

Ken Mergen made a motion to accept the levy as presented, seconded by Tammy Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

The total levy approved is \$891,690, up .91% since 2023.

Township Voting Hours and Annual Meeting Time

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be Tuesday March 11, 2024 at Oronoco City Hall. The township elections will be from 5-8pm. The annual meeting will begin at 8:15pm.

There was a motion by Joel Johannningmeier to authorize the town board to spend up to \$1,000 for citizen or board member recognition, seconded by Ken Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously. (MN Statute 365.10 subd 12)

The Board of Canvass met at 8:15pm and certified these election results: Ken Mergen, Supervisor, 3 year term, 29 votes; Brandi Lind, Treasurer, 1 year term, 45 votes; Jody Schroeder, Clerk, 2 year term, 46 votes.

Supervisor Ken Mergen made a motion to accept the election results, seconded by Supervisor Johannningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

There was a motion made by Joel Johannningmeier to adjourn at 8:55pm, seconded by Tammy Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Schroeder, Clerk

Brandi Lind, Moderator