

Oronoco Town Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2025

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oronoco Town Board held on **Monday, March 10, 2025**, at 5:30pm at the Oronoco Community Center, located at 115 Second Street SW, Oronoco, Minnesota.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Oronoco First Responders Agreement

Jason Baker, City Administrator for Oronoco presented the board with a packet containing list of calls for service, from 2021-2024 and year-to-date expenditures, from 2015-2024. Administrator Baker stated that the City of Oronoco has not ever tracked the cost of each call.

A new service agreement was presented to the board on January 13, 2025. Administrator Baker stated that the new service agreement is to ensure that the City of Oronoco is breaking even, not make a large profit. This service agreement is just a starting point and the Township can offer changes as they feel necessary.

Supervisor Johanningmeier noted that the according to the year-to-date expenditures, there is a major increase in cost.

Administrator Baker stated that they have increased members, purchased new equipment and are receiving a higher salary. Administrator Baker stated that the \$28,000 in the service agreement, is needed to provide services to Oronoco Township for 2025.

Road Report

Supervisor Mergen asked Scott Schumacher to look at the ditch on the South side of Ryan's Bay Road it is not draining properly.

Quotes

Supervisor Johanningmeier would like weeds added to section 7 of the quotes document. Clerk Schroeder will update this and email the request for quotes to current vendors. The request for quotes will also be posted on the township website. The board will receive quotes at the April 14, 2025 meeting.

Flooding from June 2024

Supervisor Mergen was notified, by Wayne Lamoreaux, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, that Oronoco Township will be reimbursed 75% of the total claims submitted, \$11,469.71, for the state flooding disaster in 2024.

Olmsted County Transportation Projects

Associate Planning Director for Olmsted County, Allison Sosa, would like representation from each township as two significant transportation related projects are planned for 2025; The

Countywide 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan. Supervisor Ken Mergen will represent Oronoco Township and attend scheduled meetings on Friday, March 28, 2025 and Friday, April 25, 2025.

Gold Rush Crossing:

Supervisor Matzke has been working with Oronoco Township Attorney, Bob Ruppe to review the Annexation Agreement for Gold Rush Crossings. Attorney Ruppe noted the property must be rezoned by the City of Oronoco, not the Township. Gold Rush Crossings has the right to choose whether or not they wish to annex into the City of Oronoco.

Supervisor Matzke informed TCPA, City Administrator Jason Baker and Logan at Widseth that the property would need to be rezoned by the City of Oronoco.

Proposed Budget for the Annual Meeting

Treasurer Lind created a spreadsheet to help track operation and maintenance costs for Cedar Beach and King's Park septic. Current balance for King's Park O&M is \$28,739.31. Current balance for Cedar Beach O&M is \$40,427.07.

The proposed budget for the annual meeting is as follows:

General Revenue: The proposed budget for general revenue is \$60,000.

Road & Bridge: The proposed budget for road and bridge is \$718,000.

Fire and First Responders: The proposed budget for fire and first response is \$122,000.

The proposed total levy is set for \$900,00, up approximately 1% from 2024.

Pine Island Fire and First Responders

Supervisor Matzke met with the Prairie Island Tribal Representative. The Federal Government in a holding pattern right now, the sovereign nation still has not been approved. There will be a second Pine Island Fire and First Responders station, it is just a matter of time and placement.

Bolten & Menk offered a feasibility study, for \$34,000. Bolton and Menk are willing to refine the study. The study, for Pine Island Fire Department, will be put hold for a while until Prairie Island Tribal contact with the government is completed. This will be added to the April 14, 2025, agenda, Supervisors will review the full feasibility document prior to the meeting.

Oronoco Township will pay half of the total invoice, \$108,584, received from the Pine Island Area Fire Association. The other half of the payment, \$54,292, will be held in a separate fund by Oronoco Township for the next 4-5 years until Pine Island Fire and First Response needs to purchase a new truck.

Election Administration

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

Minutes Approval

There was a motion by Supervisor Mergen to approve the minutes for Monday, February 10, 2025, monthly meeting, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

There was a motion by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the Board of Audit meeting minutes for Monday, February 10, 2025, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report-Brandi Lind

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of March 10, 2025 shows: receipts \$466,158.33, disbursements \$129,315.91 with an ending balance of \$1,205,185.47.

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.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to purchase a 12month CD from First Farmer's Bank, at an interest rate of 4%, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

OTPAC

Supervisor Johanningmeier stated that OTPAC received a quote from Bolton and Menk for revising the current zoning outside of the river corridor overlay project. The Township board approved \$3,000 for the review of the river overlay project by Bolton and Menk. Supervisor Johanningmeier noted that there was an overage of \$1500 for the river overlay project review that has not been approved. This overage will be used for the review and revising of the current zoning ordinances for Oronoco Township, also to be done by Bolton and Menk.

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 10, 2025, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Clerk Notes

The reorganizational meeting will be on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 5:15pm.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting will be on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 4pm.

Spring short courses for Township Officials will be held in at the Rochester Event Center on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

The Annual meeting and Township Election is Tuesday, March 11, 2025. The notice of annual meeting and bad weather date was published in the Post Bulletin on February 22, 2025 and February 25, 2025.

Oronoco Township will host the OCTOA meeting on March 27, 2025. Supervisor Matzke will bring water and chips for 60 people.

New Township emails for Clerk Schroeder and OTPAC Chair Paige Collins have been created. Clerk Schroeder sent the new email address information to Ms. Collins. Clerk Schroeder is working on transfers emails to the new email account, once complete, vendors will be notified of new email address.

Age Friendly Oronoco Area, Inc (AFOA) is meeting next Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 11:00am at the Oronoco Community Center.

The Spring Road Tour has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 4pm. Citizens who wish to attend should meet at the Oronoco Community Center by 4pm. Scott Schumacher, Schumacher Excavating, has been asked to attend to voice his concerns with problem road areas. Schumacher suggested the board looks at Sunset Bay Road.

Clerk Schroeder received the Consolidated Boundary Annexation Survey (CBAS) for 2025 that was submitted to the US Census Bureau from Olmsted County.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Mergen has sent a draft copy of the shared road agreement to New Haven Township Supervisors. Upon their review, Supervisor Mergen would like to send the draft copy of the shared road agreement to Attorney Ruppe.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to send the draft shared road agreement to Attorney Ruppe for review, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Clerk Jody Schroeder

Tammy Matzke

Ken Mergen

Joel Johanningmeier