

**ORONOCO TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2025 8:15 PM**

The Oronoco Township annual meeting was **called to order** on March 11, 2025, at 8:18pm by Clerk Jody Schroeder. There were 14 people present. Treasurer Brandi Lind was moderator.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

The Board of Canvass met at 8:15pm and certified these election results: Joel Johanningmeier, Supervisor, 20 votes; Brandi Lind, Treasurer, 20 votes; town question, move election to November, 20 votes.

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

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.

Brandi Lind made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Ken Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

These documents were available: proposed agenda, minutes of the 2024 annual meeting, 2025 Board of Audit minutes, 2024 Financial Report including road expenditures, levy information, township accomplishments and challenges.

The meeting paused to allow time for attendees to read the **2024 minutes**.

Ken Mergen made a motion to accept the 2024 annual meeting minutes, seconded by Joel Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

The **Board of Audit** met February 10, 2025. 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.

Brandi Lind made a motion to accept the 2025 Board of Audit meeting minutes, seconded by Joel Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer Brandi Lind reviewed the 2024 Financial Report explaining some significant activities and expenditures. Oronoco Township's total revenue was \$1,068,505.42, disbursements \$1,544,160.54 with an ending balance of \$1,280,013.40. There were no ARPA funds received in 2024.

Liabilities include the notes for King's Park Septic (\$26,819.75) and Cedar Beach Septic (\$150,055.16). One significant expenditure was a series of road projects for White Birch Court and Thunderbluff Rd NW with a total of \$455,848.36, for road resurfacing.

Significant 2024 accomplishment

Resurfacing of White Birch Court and Thunderbluff Rd NW.

Cold patches on Halloran Dr, Frederichs Dr, Ridge Crest Land, Zumbro Cedar and Zumbro Woods.

With the lack of snow in the winter of 2024, a significant amount of extra ditch work and tree work was completed by Schumacher Excavating on 11th Ave, 85th St, 125th St and Sunset Bay Rd. The website was updated for citizens to be able to navigate the site for both information and documents, for the Township and OTPAC.

March 1, 2024, TCPA, Township Cooperative Planning Association, began administering building and zoning process. The Township and citizens have found this to be a very successful and great change.

Property taxes have remained stable and flat for the last 5 years.

No increase to King's Park or Cedar Beach Septic O&M for 2025 tax year.

The proposed levy has an increase of approximately 1% overall.

Reports

Roads-Supervisor Ken Mergen reported the major road projects that were completed on White Birch Court and Thunderbluff Rd NW. The spring road tour will be April 9, 2025. There is a resurfacing project for Frederich's Dr in 2025. There will be dust control on all township gravel roads.

Pine Island Fire District (PIFD)-Fire Chief Brandon Sather, Treasurer Dave Frieze and First Assistant Chief Casey Sather were present. Fire Chief Sather presented a chart with the number of calls, response times and average personnel response. There were 34 calls in the township; fires, good intent, false alarm, rescue and EMS, lift assists. There are generally 12 responders per call.

Oronoco Food Shelf -Director Jeff Gisi was present. OFS has served 821 households. OFS has distributed 43,600 pounds of food. OFS has 200 households in their database. There are 25-44 households on average that use the food shelf per month. Forty percent of food shelf users are from the Pine Island and Oronoco area. The rest are from surrounding communities; Rochester, Zumbrota, Goodhue. OFS is open the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30pm.

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. Township wide moratorium is in place for building in the Township, this will expire July 10, 2025. This was to slow things down, create a land use plan for the township and focus on the river corridor. They have created a river corridor overlay district to help with what can be built where and how it will be enforced.

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

General Revenue: Brandi Lind moved to fund at \$60,000. Lucy Shonyo seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Road & Bridge: Brandi Lind moved to fund at \$718,000. Joe Schroeder seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Fire and First Responders: Brandi Lind moved to fund at \$122,000. Lucy Shonyo seconded; motion carried unanimously.

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

Brandi Lind made a motion to accept the levy as presented, seconded by Joe Schroeder. The motion was carried unanimously.

Annual Meeting Time and Township Voting Hours

The 2026 Annual Meeting will be Tuesday March 10, 2026 at Oronoco City Hall.

Brandi Lind made a motion to hold the annual meeting on March 10, 2026, at 5pm at the Oronoco Community Center, seconded by Ken Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

The township elections will be held on November 3, 2026.

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

Mike Clemens made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm, seconded by Tammy Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Schroeder, Clerk

Brandi Lind, Moderator
