

Oronoco Town Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oronoco Town Board held on **Monday, April 14, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

The agenda was accepted as presented, with the removal of the Resolution Appointing a Vice-chair to the Town Board, this was done at the Reorg meeting.

Acceptance of Quotes

All quotes received are posted on the township's website.

Clerk Schroeder received quotes from Scott Schumacher, Schumacher Excavating; Josh Roberson, Roberson Lime & Rock; Ashely Blake, Bruening Rock Products before the opening of the meeting.

Class 5, summer rock only: Bruening Rock Products, Milestone Materials, Olmsted Aggregate, and Roberson Lime & Rock.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen moved to accept all rock quotes, naming Roberson Lime & Rock the primary summer rock supplier, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Winter prepay for Icy Road treatment: Roberson Lime & Rock

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the winter pre-pay for Roberson Lime and Rock, \$8,000, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tree Service: North Star Companies, Arrow Tree works, and Arborists of Rochester

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to accept all tree service quotes, naming Arborists of Rochester the primary tree service company, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Weed spraying: North Star Companies

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There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to authorize \$5,000 in weed spraying, done by North Star Companies, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

Road maintenance, including as needed road maintenance, icy roads treatment and occasional road projects: Schumacher Excavating.

There was a motion by Supervisor Mergen to accept Schumacher's road maintenance quote, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Road Report

Scott Schumacher stated that they have been busy blading and started sweeping roads. They have been working on removing trees along the edge of the road. They will replace a culvert on Cedar Beach that has a hole in it. They will start ditch work on Sunset Bay Rd next week.

Scott Schumacher will meet with Supervisor Mergen on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, to discuss work needed on Sunset Bay Rd. They will also discuss possible road projects and where gravel is needed on road shoulders.

Supervisor Mergen asked Scott Schumacher to detail what roads are being worked on and what street signs have been repaired. The board would like to begin tacking maintenance and expenses on each road.

Josh Roberson stated that they would like to begin hauling rock April 21, 2025, weather permitting. The roads that need rock are: 60th Ave, 102nd St, 1st St and 110th St, 115th St, and Sunset Bay Rd.

Supervisor Mergen would like to hold off on rocking Sunset Bay Rd until ditch work is done. Josh Roberson will work to coordinate with Schumacher Excavating for timing on this.

Treasurer Lind is concerned about increased traffic on township roads with the new roundabout work at 75th St. The road will be shut down on both ends from June 2nd-through the weekend before Labor Day, weather pending. Traffic will be rerouted to 55th St.

Supervisor Mergen will put a counter out on 11th Ave NW.

Supervisor Matzke will talk to MnDot to look at getting speed signs or road closed to thru traffic signs placed on township roads to help slow or detour rerouted traffic.

Supervisor Mergen will call Quality Propane to get a cost, as no quote was received. Supervisor Mergen would like to limit chloride on gravel roads this year. He would like to chloride 300' on either side of residents' and 500' at intersections. High traffic roads would be chloride: King's Park, Cedar Beach, Ryan's Bay, 60th Ave, 115th St, 14th Ave NW, and 11th Ave NE and 11th Ave NW. Chloride will be applied sometime around May 25, 2025.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve up to \$85,000 for chloride, for 2025 season to, including all high traffic areas and 300' on either side

of a residence, and 500' at intersection, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Mergen talked with Tracy McNallan, Rochester Sand and Gravel. There is no set time for road work to begin on Frederich's Dr yet. The cost of Frederich's Dr is \$224,000. Supervisor Mergen asked what the cost to mill up and re-lay all of Fitzpatrick and Kruisle Dr would be, when Rochester Sand and Gravel is already there working on Frederich's Dr. The approximate cost would be \$86,000.

Supervisor Mergen would like to hold off on work on Frederich's Dr until August, we can get exact price and measurements for Fitzpatrick and Kruisle.

The cost to resurface 125th St would be approximately \$180,000.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen delay work on Frederich's Dr for now, but have Rochester Sand and Gravel resurface 125th St, with a cost not to exceed \$200,000, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Pine Island Fire Responders

Supervisor Matzke stated that the Pine Island Fire and First Responders will hold off on building a second location at this time.

Oronoco First Responders

Supervisor Johanningmeier created a spreadsheet for the Oronoco First Responders with information presented to the Board March 10, 2025, from City Administrator Baker. It shows the total general ledger fund, the general ledger salaries, general ledger operating expenditures, total calls and calls for the Township, from 2015-2024. There is a significant increase in all expenditures in 2023 and 2024.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to send notice of cancellation of the Oronoco First Responders Contract, to the City of Oronoco, beginning July 1, 2025, with the City of Oronoco to keep money already paid for the contract, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Johanningmeier will reach out to City Administrator Jason Baker to discuss the cancellation of the contract. The Oronoco Township Board was looking for financials, response time to calls, number of calls responded to and if response to calls was doubled with Pine Island Fire Department. The communication with Oronoco First Responders has been poor with most questions ignored.

Construction Management Services

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to approve Construction Management Services as the Township Building Official, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes Approval

There was a motion by Supervisor Mergen to approve the minutes for Monday, March 10, 2025, with the correction that there was an overage of \$1500 for the river overlay project review that has not been approved, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Annual Meeting Minutes

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the Annual meeting minutes, from March 11, 2025, with the correction to the spelling of center on page 3, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Road Tour 2025 Minutes

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the Road Tour 2025 meeting minutes, from April 9, 2025, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Mergen will talk to Scott Schumacher about rock needed on the road shoulders: Ridge Crest Ln NW, Ridge Crest Dr NW, and Pinecrest Ln NW.

Treasurer's Report-Brandi Lind

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of April 14, 2025 shows: receipts \$469,374.57, disbursements \$207,883.37 with an ending balance of \$1,129,834.25

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 and claims, including electronic transfers, with the exclusion of Couri and Ruppe, for April 14, 2025, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

The invoices from Couri & Ruppe are for Gold Rush Crossings. These invoices will be sent to Logan Tjossem at Widseth Engineering.

OTPA

Gold Rush Crossing

Logan, Widseth Engineering, has contacted attorneys to assist in moving forward with the Zoning Request for Gold Rush Crossings. Per Attorney Ruppe, the Orderly Annexation agreement states that Gold Rush Crossing must adhere to City of Oronoco zoning ordinances, but they do NOT have to annex into the city.

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Oronoco Auto Parts

The next court hearing for Oronoco Auto Parts is April 27th. They owe the City of Oronoco \$2600 in overdue water bills.

Cannabis Ordinance

The cannabis ordinance is to establish a standalone ordinance regarding cannabis operations for Oronoco Township.

Oronoco Township zoning ordinance text amendment, articles 4 & 10

OTPAAC will review articles 4 & 10 of the Oronoco Township zoning ordinance to further include Interim Use Permits (IUP) and regulate short term rentals.

Clerk Notes

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting was on April 14, 2025 at 4pm. This was published in the Rochester Post Bulletin on March 29, 2025.

The City of Oronoco will be reviewing the joint polling place resolution at their April meeting. The Oronoco Township Board will review it at the May meeting.

There was an error on Clerk Schroeder's election payroll for March 11, 2025. Hemann and Grover will correct this for the May 12, 2025 meeting.

Board Member Comments

Clerk Schroeder has not yet received a check for the state flooding disaster in 2024, reimbursement should be 75% of the total claims submitted, \$11,469.71.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Clerk Jody Schroeder

Tammy Matzke

Ken Mergen

Joel Johanningmeier