

**ORONOCO TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2026
5pm**

The Oronoco Township annual meeting was **called to order** on March 10, 2026, at 5pm by Clerk Jody Schroeder. There were 9 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.

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

These documents were available: proposed agenda, minutes of the 2025 annual meeting, 2026 Board of Audit minutes, 2025 Financial Report including road expenditures, levy information, township accomplishments and challenges.

The meeting paused to allow time for attendees to read the **2025 minutes**.

The **Board of Audit** met February 9, 2026. 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 2025 Financial Report explaining some significant activities and expenditures. Oronoco Township's total revenue was \$1,016,638.10, disbursements \$1,184,113.12 with an ending balance of \$1,1163,510.04. There were no ARPA funds received in 2025.

Liabilities include the notes for King's Park Septic (\$23,679.75) and Cedar Beach Septic (\$136,681.16).

Significant expenditures were a series of road projects for Frederich's Drive, Fitzpatrick, Kruisle, Thunderbluff, and White Birch Court. Total expense for this was \$291,976.97.

Significant 2025 accomplishment

Moving the Township Election to November. The 2026 Township Election will be November 3, 2026.

Completing large road projects.

Reports

Oronoco Food Shelf (OFS) -Director Jeff Gisi and his wife Jessica were present. The **Oronoco Food Shelf (OFS)** has been operating since **2009**.

Between **2024 and 2025**, OFS served **233 households**, that visited at least once.

Approximately half of those households either did not list a hometown or were from the Oronoco area. About 50% of the households served have children under the age of 18.

OFS distributed **35,235 pounds of food**, representing a **197% increase since 2021**. On average, the food shelf serves **56 households per month**.

OFS is open on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 5:00–6:30 p.m.** The

food shelf operates at the **Oronoco Presbyterian Church**.

Pine Island Fire District (PIFD)-Fire Chief Brandon Sather and Second Assistant Chief David Friese were present. The Pine Island Rural Fire Joint Powers District responded to **516 total calls. 80 calls** were within **Oronoco Township**, with **response times averaging 13–16 minutes**.

PIFD has partnered with **Olmsted County** in a **Fall Prevention Program**, which helps residents remain safely in their homes for as long as possible. To date, **7 individuals have been referred** to the program through PIFD.

In **2025**, PIFD purchased a **drone** to assist with **structure fires, grass fires, and water rescues**. The drone will also be available to **Goodhue and Olmsted County law enforcement** if needed.

PIFD finished **approximately \$13,000 under budget in 2025**. The **2026 budget includes a 4% increase**.

PIFD is exploring the **purchase of an air boat for water rescue operations**. The department is also considering **purchasing a new fire engine within the next few years**.

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

General Revenue: Ken Mergen moved to fund at \$70,000. Joel Johannningmeier seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Road & Bridge: Ken Mergen moved to fund at \$760,000. Tammy Matzke seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Fire and First Responders: Ken Mergen moved to fund at \$118,000. Joel Johannningmeier seconded; motion carried unanimously.

The total levy approved is \$945,000, up approximately 5% from 2025.

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

Annual Meeting Time

The 2027 Annual Meeting will be Tuesday March 9, 2027 at Oronoco City Hall.

Ken Mergen made a motion to hold the annual meeting on March 9, 2027, at 5pm at the Oronoco Community Cener, seconded by Tammy Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Tammy Matzke made a motion to adjourn at 5:41pm, seconded by Ken Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Schroeder, Clerk

Brandi Lind, Moderator