

Oronoco Town Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oronoco Town Board held on **Monday, March 9, 2026** 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 change to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting on April 13, 2026.

Bill Tointon from WSE Massey Engineering and Surveying, Jeff Annekey from DBS, and Mike Dukart requested time to be heard by the Board. They are seeking the Board's support to move forward with the development of a proposed business park on 100th St, the West side of Hwy 52. The project has received support from the City of Oronoco and two Olmsted County Commissioners.

There was a motion by Supervisor Mergen to sign a statement of support for Dukart Commercial Business Park, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion carried unanimously.

LZFI

There is no information to present to the Board at this time. The invoice, in the amount of \$926.25, from Couri and Ruppe will be sent to LZFI.

Road Report

Minnesota Ave

Supervisor Matzke is compiling documentation, including emails and photos, regarding the condition of Minnesota Avenue before and after work done by the City of Oronoco, with construction of the Oronoco Waste Water Treatment Facility. As per the agreement with the City of Oronoco, the road must be returned to its original state prior to the construction of the Oronoco Waste Water Treatment Facility. These repairs need to be completed before the City of Oronoco begins work on phase 2 of the Waste Water Treatment Facility. Supervisor Matzke will share this documentation with Cain Dolan, Oronoco Public Works Director.

85th St Bridge

Supervisor Mergen was contacted by Olmsted County about the resurfacing of the 85th St Bridge. The County was inquiring if line painting on the bridge was needed; Supervisor Mergen stated it is not necessary.

Milestone Materials

Milestone Materials would like to continue to operate the pit off of 85th and 100st for Olmsted Aggregate. There is currently not a lot of activity at this quarry.

Pine Island Rural Fire District Joint Powers

The dues for the Pine Island Rural Fire District are not increasing much for 2026. Dues for 2026 are \$110,757. The cost for 2025 was \$108,584.

Airpacks will be purchased for firefighters. Airpacks will be paid for by funds from pull tabs and interest on CD maturing in April.

The City of Pine Island has hired a consultant to assist with developing a future growth plan for the fire department. This planning process will evaluate the transition from the current model to a full-time fire department as the city continues to grow.

Sunset Bay Road Community Septic Land Owned by Oronoco Township

There was an email received from a citizen inquiring of the purchase of a small parcel of land owned by Oronoco Township on Sunset Bay Road. This property is earmarked for a future wastewater treatment facility for Township residents and will not be sold.

Annual Meeting Agenda and Levy

Board Supervisors are suggesting a 5% increase to the levy from last year. The proposed levy is as follows:

General Fund: \$70,000

Road and Bridge: \$760,000

Fire/First Responders: \$115,000

TOTAL PROPOSED LEVY FOR 2026: \$945,000

Election Administration Pay

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

Minutes Approval

February 9, 2026

There was a motion by Supervisor Mergen to approve the minutes for Monday, February 9, 2026, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Board of Audit Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2026

There was a motion by Supervisor Mergen to approve the minutes for the Monday, February 9, 2026, Board of Audit Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report-Brandi Lind

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of March 9, 2026, shows: receipts \$498,178.58, disbursements \$121,440.41 an ending balance of \$1,085,606.20

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the treasurers report for March 9, 2026, 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 for March 9, 2026, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

OTPAC

Stormwater Management Ordinance

The Stormwater Management Ordinance is still moving forward. Kristi from Bolton and Menk will review the Ordinance and add it to the River Corridor District.

TCPA

TCPA will get Ethan Kaske more training, specifically working with attorneys.

River Corridor District:

Township Attorney Ruppe sent the letter to Olmsted County to respond within 30 days; the County did not respond. However, the County is holding a meeting on March 17th. Attorney Ruppe must attend this meeting, if he is unable to attend, he will suggest rescheduling.

Clerk Notes

The **Annual Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 5:00pm. The Annual Meeting notice will be Published on February 28, 2026, in the Rochester Post Bulletin.

There will be no Township Election in March. Residents voted to move Township Elections from March to November. The next Township Election will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026.**

The **Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting** will be held on April 13, 2026 from 3:30-4pm at Oronoco City Hall.

The **reorganizational meeting** will be held on April 13, 2026, at 5pm.

The **2026 road tour** will be done by each Supervisor independently. There will be a road tour review on April 13, 2026 at 4pm.

Request for **quotes** will be emailed to contractor. Quotes will be accepted at the April 13, 2026 meeting.

Donna Larsen, **MN DCP** Retirement Specialist, will be available to the board via phone or email to answer any questions, concerns, or make changes to retirement funds if needed.

Payroll for March 9, 2026, does not match Hemann and Grover

The payroll checks issued by Hemann and Grover **do not** match the CTAS payroll register reports again this month. Specifically, the Social Security and Medicare amounts differ. The differences to PFML have been adjusted by Hemann and Grover. Payroll checks should match with Hemann and Grover next month.

Deer Hunting Ordinance

The Olmsted County Board of Commissioners is considering adopting an ordinance that would restrict rifles from being used for deer hunting in Olmsted County. The Olmsted County Board will be holding a **Public Hearing on Tuesday March 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm.**

Deputy Clerk Shonyo

Deputy Clerk Shonyo will no longer be deputy clerk for the Township. Clerk Schroeder will begin looking for a new Deputy Clerk.

File Cabinets

Treasurer Lind is working on acquiring file cabinets from Eagle Rock Bank for the Township room at Oronoco City Hall. The cost of the file cabinets would be minimal or free, they must be moved by March 30, 2026. Supervisor Mergen suggested that the file cabinets be moved by Billboard Partners for \$25/hr.

The Board will meet at a later date to begin working on sorting files.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to have Billboard Partners move file cabinets from Eagle Rock Bank to Oronoco City Hall, for \$25/hr., if they can be acquired from Eagle Rock Bank, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion carried unanimously.

Recording Meeting

The Board affirms that meetings of OTPAC and Oronoco Township shall not be recorded by individuals for the purpose of posting or sharing on websites, Facebook, or other social media platforms.

Clerk Schroeder may record meetings solely for the purpose of preparing the official minutes. These recordings will be deleted once the minutes have been completed.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to allow elected officials only to attend meetings via zoom, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion carried unanimously.

ADA Requirements for the Website

Clerk Schroeder worked with Andrew Wilcox, NexGen Marketing to make sure that the Township website meets new ADA requirements. An accessibility statement has also been added to the website.

Adjourn

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Clerk Jody Schroeder

Tammy Matzke

Ken Mergen

Joel Johanningmeier