

Oronoco Town Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2026

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oronoco Town Board held on **Monday, May 11, 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 with the removal of the River Corridor Ordinance.

Lake Zumbro Park Phase 2 – Olmsted County Conditional Use Permit and Shoreland Variance

This matter was tabled at the April 13, 2026, meeting to allow additional time to gather information regarding Minnesota DNR approval of the proposed picnic shelter within the shoreland setback.

Supervisor Matzke stated that the Lake Zumbro Improvement Association, LZIA, will hold a meeting on May 21, 2026, at 7:00pm at The Pondy Restaurant and Bar. Concerns have been raised regarding traffic on Blakely Court, particularly related to resident safety.

Allison Sosa, Olmsted County Planning Director, stated that the request before the Board at tonight's meeting is specifically for the variance and not for the entire project site. All parcels have been combined into one property.

Karlin Ziegler, Olmsted County Parks and Trails Director, stated that the location of the proposed picnic shelter has not changed.

Ms. Sosa further stated that the DNR is aware of the proposed picnic shelter location; however, the DNR does not issue formal letters of approval for this type of matter.

Supervisor Johanningmeier expressed concern that if the Board supports the picnic shelter within the shoreland area, other residents may expect similar allowances for construction within shoreland districts.

Supervisor Johanningmeier also asked whether traffic on Blakely Court could be restricted or blocked through the use of a gate or barricade. Ms. Ziegler responded that Olmsted County Public Works would prefer to close access from the County Road and instead utilize access from Blakely Court. Supervisor Matzke stated that such an arrangement would not be a reasonable option for Oronoco Township residents. Supervisor Mergen stated that he would prefer to close Blakely Court and leave the other access open.

The Oronoco Township Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 5:00pm to discuss a potential letter of support for Lake Zumbro Park Phase 2 after hearing residents' concerns at the May 21, 2026, LZIA meeting.

OTMB-26-02, Kuehn

Request: The applicant is seeking to split off 2+ acres from the original 155 +/- acre parcel to create a Non-Farm lot.

Location: Parcel # 842123079446
3501 100th Street NW, Oronoco, MN

The proposed parcel is 0.3 miles east of the intersection of Minnesota Ave S and located on the north side of the road at the existing outbuilding.

Findings of Fact:

An analysis of the four criteria for establishing a Non-Farm parcel is as follows;
(Staff comments are in italics)

1. No more than one non farm lot per quarter-quarter section. Should a quarter-quarter section contain a buildable non farm lot, no additional dwelling shall be permitted.

There are no other Non-Farm parcels/lots in the subject quarter-quarter section. This criterion is met. The existing dwelling (3501 100th St NW) will remain on a 153 +/- acre farm sized parcel.

2. Any non farm lot shall contain at least one (1) acre of non prime agricultural soils with a crop equivalent rating of 55 or less. When a dwelling, which is not a mobile home, existed in its present location prior to April 16, 1983, this standard shall not apply.

The proposed 2+-acre Non-Farm parcel contains at least one acre of non-prime agricultural soils. Staff will not accept a Certificate of Survey that does not meet this requirement. Per the attached soils overlay this criterion is met.

3. No non farm dwelling shall be permitted in areas identified as wetlands or flood plain.

There are not areas of identified wetlands or flood plain on the proposed parcel. This criterion is met.

4. No non farm dwelling shall be located within one-fourth (1/4) mile of an animal feedlot or manure storage facility not located on the same non farm lot.

Olmsted County GIS maps indicate the presence of a feedlot on the property to the south. However, TCPA has confirmed with Olmsted County Feedlot Technician Martin Larsen that the feedlot is retired and not active. This criterion is met.

Analysis and Conclusion:

Analysis:

Zoning: The request is consistent with the requirements of the A-2 Zoning District and complies with the Standards for Non-Farm Lots or Dwellings.

Access: Access to the proposed 2+-acre parcel is from an existing approach on 100th Street NW that serves the existing dwelling on the original 155+ acre parcel and the proposed 2+-acre parcel. The Certificate of Survey makes provisions for a "66' wide Access & Utility Easement" located over portions of the existing drive that will serve as joint access for both the proposed and original parcels.

The applicant will need to contact Olmsted County Public Works and work with them as necessary in regard to access to 100th Street NW.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed parcel subdivision for a Non-Farm lot/dwelling based on the following conditions:

1. The applicant provides a survey of the proposed 2+-acre parcel subdivision that meets the Oronoco Township ordinance with regard to lot width, size, access, and soils.
2. The applicant works with Olmsted County Public Works as necessary in regard to access to 100th Street NW.
3. All provisions of the Oronoco Township Zoning Ordinance shall be met.

This information was taken from the TCPA packet and is only a portion of the document. The entire document can be found at TCPA or the Oronoco Township Clerk, Jody Schroeder.

Janelle Finck, TCPA, presented to the Board.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Tammy to approve OTMB-26-02, Kuehn, with TCPA staff recommendations, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Lake Zumbro Forever, Inc (LZFI)

Mark and Karen Jordahl are neighbors to the King's Park land that was deeded to LZFI from Oronoco Township. The Jordahl's want to ensure that they still have access to their backyard and stairs. Mr. Jordahl does not want a lot of extra traffic or commotion there. Supervisor Matzke stated that the LZFI land will be transferred back to Oronoco Township. Supervisor

Johanningmeier suggested that Jordahl's contact Olmsted County to make sure that the deed is recorded correctly.

Road Report

Chloride application should begin on May 21, 2026.

Schumacher has been working on projects on 55th Ave, Elm and 1st St culverts and Windermere ditch and aprons.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to approve the 2026 Quality Propane quote for chloride application, including all high-traffic areas, 300 feet on either side of a residence, and 500 feet at intersections. The motion also included approval for Schumacher to use a water truck, if needed, when roads are too dry prior to chloride application. Seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Mergen was contacted by Olmsted County Sherriff to report dumping of debris in the ditch off of 85th St. Supervisor Mergen picked up mattresses and garbage and took it to Olmsted County Recycling.

Supervisor Matzke noted that work by People's Energy Cooperative along Kings Park is almost complete. She will contact Peoples Energy if she notices anything not up to par with the completed work.

Supervisor Mergen has not yet received a quote back from Rochester Sand and Gravel for 18th Ave, Holloran Lane, 85th St.

The Seal King quote is for Zumbro Woods Lane (Haven Hodge area), Minnesota Ave, Riverhills, Ridge Crest Drive NW, Lyons Court, Cresent Ridge, King's Dr, Koenig Lane, Pine Crest, Cedar Crest, White Bridge Lane, Cardinal Lane.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to accept the quote form Seal King for \$13,250.00 plus an additional \$2,500 buffer for other areas of concern, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Oronoco Waste Water Treatment Facility, WWTF, Phase 1B

Supervisor Matzke sent a letter to the City of Oronoco on April 13, 2026, regarding the conditions that have been observed on Minnesota Avenue South, from Minnesota Lane to the City of Oronoco's Waste Water Treatment Facility. These conditions have been persistent and chronic during and following construction of the Oronoco WWTF.

Potential Annexation for Township Residents along Elm St and 1st Ave

The City of Oronoco is seeking to annex residents of Oronoco Township in the Elm Street and 1st Avenue Addition into the city in order to connect properties to the Oronoco Waste Water Treatment Facility. Special Project Administrator Lynn Koenig stated that the annexation process would need to be completed on a parcel-by-parcel basis. The orderly annexation agreement between Oronoco Township and the City of Oronoco requires that homeowners voluntarily choose to be annexed into the City of Oronoco.

A public open house regarding the Phase 1B Sewer and Water Improvement Project will be held on June 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Oronoco City Hall.

Resolution 2026-04, Joint Polling Place agreement between the City of Oronoco and Oronoco Township

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve Resolution 2026-04, Joint Polling Place Agreement Between the City of Oronoco and Oronoco Township, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes Approval

April 13, 2026

Supervisor Johanningmeier stated that at the March 2026 OCTOA meeting, he raised concerns that one of the reasons for denial of the River Corridor Ordinance was due to TCPA's request for \$300,000 from Olmsted County. Clerk Schroeder will correct this information in the April 13, 2026 meeting minutes. The corrected minutes will be reviewed again by the Board on June 8, 2026.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, April 13, 2026

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting minutes for April 13, 2026, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Reorg Meeting Minutes, April 13, 2026

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the Reorg meeting minutes for April 13, 2026, seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

Road Tour Meeting Minutes, April 13, 2026

Supervisor Johanningmeier noted that Minnesota Avenue was inadvertently omitted from the areas identified for patchwork in the road tour meeting minutes. Clerk Schroeder will add Minnesota Avenue to the minutes, and the revised minutes will be reviewed by the Board on June 8, 2026.

Treasurer's Report-Brandi Lind

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of May 11, 2026, shows: receipts \$502,496.83, disbursements \$213,761.20 and an ending balance of \$942,225.16.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Mergen to approve the treasurers report for May 11, 2026, in written form, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. 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 May 11, 2026, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

OTPAC

The Township Cooperative Planning Association, TCPA, has some concerns with the River Corridor Ordinance, RCO. The River Corridor Ordinance, RCO, had been approved by OTPAC at the meeting held on April 20, 2026. The RCO will be discussed again at the OTPAC meeting on May 18, 2026.

Clerk Notes

Clerk Schroeder noted that she sent an email to Viola Township Clerk, Barb Nicklay, regarding the OCTOA meeting scheduled for July 23, 2026, which Oronoco and Viola Townships are scheduled to host jointly. No response has been received to date. Supervisor Johanningmeier stated that he will attempt to contact Viola Township Board members to determine whether they are willing to host the July 23, 2026 meeting. Oronoco Township would then provide snacks for the meeting.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Mergen may not be able to attend the Oronoco Township Board meeting on July 13, 2026.

Adjourn

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 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Oronoco Township Board Meeting Minutes
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Clerk Jody Schroeder

Tammy Matzke

Ken Mergen

Joel Johanningmeier