

Oronoco Town Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2026

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oronoco Town Board held on **Monday, July 13, 2026**, at 5:30pm at the Oronoco Community Center, located at 115 Second Street SW, Oronoco, Minnesota.

Supervisor Tammy Matzke called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The agenda was updated to remove item 3, Lake Zumbro Park Driveway Permit. It was also listed in Road Report and will be discussed there.

Oronoco Waste Water Treatment Facility Phase 1B

The City of Oronoco is seeking to annex properties located in Oronoco Township within the Elm Street and 1st Avenue area of the Cravath Addition to facilitate connections to the Oronoco Wastewater Treatment Facility, phase 2. Under the existing Orderly Annexation Agreement between Oronoco Township and the City of Oronoco, annexation must occur on a voluntary, parcel-by-parcel basis.

Supervisor Matzke stated that homeowners must choose to initiate the annexation process; the Township and city cannot require annexation. Homeowners must pay the annexation fees, connection fees to city sewer and water, they must pay to decommission their well and septic, the taxes will increase (city taxes are higher than Township).

A public open house regarding the Phase 1B Sewer and Water Improvement Project was held on June 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Oronoco City Hall. Residents and members of the Oronoco Township Board were invited to learn more about the proposed project and ask questions.

Following the open house, OTPAC Special Project Manager Lynn Koenig sent letters to residents of the Cravath Addition requesting feedback, at the Township meeting on July 13, 2026, on whether they wished to annex into the City of Oronoco. There were 4 residents who emailed Lynn Koenig and shared they are not interested in connecting to the city sewer and water.

Several residents shared their concerns during the discussion:

- Chris Liffbrig stated that a city water main already runs through his front yard. He explained that the neighborhood currently shares a well serving approximately 20 households, with his annual cost being about \$400 per year. He expressed that he does not want to connect to city water because of the costs. He also noted that his father-in-law, Greg Kautz, who is retired and on a fixed income, is similarly opposed to connecting to city sewer and water.
- Kim Scanlan stated that she has lived in the neighborhood for 40 years. She explained that the shared well is tested monthly and has consistently shown nitrate levels lower than those found in the city's water supply. Her primary concerns are the cost of

connecting to city utilities, the ongoing monthly utility charges, and reports that water pressure within the city is poor.

- Stephen Kjos stated that the city had discussed several options for the project. He noted that it was stated, at the June 9 meeting, that the Township would assist with costs associated with connecting residents to city sewer and water and would also pay to pave the road as part of the project.
- Kevin Palm, who moved into the neighborhood a few years ago, stated that he installed a new septic system after purchasing his property. He explained that he was advised a mound system was unnecessary because the expectation at the time was that the neighborhood would soon be connecting to city sewer and water. He is wondering if his sewer will still be in compliance. Supervisor Matzke stated that he could have it inspected if he were going to sell his property, if it is compliant then a new septic would not be needed.

There is a neighborhood meeting scheduled for August. Special Project Manager Lynn Koenig has been invited to attend to answer additional questions regarding the proposed sewer and water connections and the annexation process.

The Oronoco Township Board reaffirmed that it will support any residents who voluntarily choose to connect to city sewer and water. However, the decision to annex into the City of Oronoco remains entirely with each individual property owner, and the annexation process must be initiated by the resident.

Resolution 2026-06, River Corridor Overlay District Ordinance

Supervisor Ken Mergen was absent from the meeting but called in at this time.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve Resolution 2026-06, the River Corridor Overlay District, Seconded by Supervisor Mergen. The motion was carried unanimously.

Road Report

The road report was discussed since Supervisor Mergen was on this call.

Supervisor Mergen reported picking up garbage on 85th Street.

Supervisor Mergen reported that several trees were down on Evergreen Lane. He contacted Arborists of Rochester and requested that the trees be removed within the next week. Clerk Schroeder also received an email regarding the downed trees on Evergreen Lane. Supervisor Matzke contacted Arborists of Rochester to arrange for the tree removal in response to the resident's email.

Supervisor Johanningmeier requested that Rochester Sweeping coordinate with the Olmsted County Solid Waste Assurance Coordinator to help identify the source of the debris found in the garbage left in the ditches. Supervisor Johanningmeier will provide the contact information for this representative.

Bakely Court Signs

Supervisor Matzke reached out to TCPA to find out if there could be a fine associated with the illegal parking on Bakley Court.

The suggested sign would read: "Parking Restricted, Blakely Court Resident and Guest Only, Violators subject to a \$300 fine per Ordinance."

Supervisor Matzke believes that the parking ordinance would have to be updated.

Ethan Kaske suggested contacting Attorney Ruppe to find out what can be done from a legal standpoint. This is to be discussed at the August 10 meeting.

Lake Zumbro Park Driveway Permit

Karlin will send permit to Logan Tjossum at Widesth Engineering. Supervisors Matzke and Johanningmeier are concerned with traffic on Blakely Court.

Supervisor Matzke will send a note to Logan to ask about traffic concerns and the need for two outlets. The parking lot is a no trailer parking area so two-way traffic should not be needed.

Parking on the County Road is continuing to happen due to Lake Zumbro Park. The sheriff was out issuing tickets on the July 4th weekend for residents parked in no parking areas.

No Dumping Signs on 85th St

There was a motion made by Supervisor Matzke to approve the purchase and installation of two, "no dumping, area under surveillance signs," at a cost of \$200/sign, seconded by Supervisor Johanningmeier. The motion was carried unanimously.

Olmsted County Maintenance Agreement

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the Olmsted County Maintenance Agreement pending it is the same as last year, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Speed study on Cedar Beach Road

Supervisor Matzke saw that there was a comment on Facebook that residents were going to increase their speed since there was a speed study being done on Cedar Beach Road.

The Board has not yet received comment from Sheriff Rinn on the study.

Driveways

Supervisor Johanningmeier reported a request for a driveway permit. Clerk Schroeder emailed the permit application and the Township's driveway ordinance to the resident. The resident is working with G-Cubed to develop an access plan.

The Board discussed the need for a designated contact person for driveway permits and access plans. As this responsibility falls under roads, Supervisor Mergen will serve as the primary contact.

Weed Spraying

Supervisor Johanningmeier stated that weed spraying had been completed. Maps of areas sprayed were provided to Clerk Schroeder.

Scott Schumacher stated that mowing was previously completed from right-of-way to right-of-way and noted that some areas have become overgrown and are narrowing the right of way. He suggested mowing or spraying the underbrush to improve clearance. Supervisor Johanningmeier will contact North Star to discuss these options. Schumacher also noted that the work could be completed by them using a skid loader equipped with a front-mounted mower.

Seal King

Clerk Schroeder will meet with Carmen from Seal King, on July 14, 2026 at Oronoco City Hall, to obtain the invoice for the completed work. Prior to issuing payment, Clerk Schroeder will request identification and proof of employment. Clerk Schroeder also received an email from Sky at Seal King authorizing Carmen to pick up the payment check.

Rochester Sand and Gravel

Supervisors Johanningmeier and Matzke would like further clarification on paving costs on Ridge Crest Lane and the area. This project will not be done this year, possibly next.

The work to be completed this year is for 18th Ave NW, Halloran Lane NW, and Hyland Court NW, and Kings Drive NW.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the quote for \$300,122.00 from Rochester Sand and Gravel, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dukart Business Park

Supervisor Matzke reported that the County indicated it would approve the roadway connection from Dukart Business Park to County Road 112 if the Township agreed to assume ownership and maintenance of all roads within the proposed industrial development.

Supervisor Matzke stated that privately owned industrial parks are typically responsible for owning and maintaining their internal roads. She noted that the proposed roadway primarily benefits the private developer and, therefore, should remain the developer's responsibility.

Minutes Approval

June 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the June 8, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Special Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2026

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2026 seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report-Brandi Lind

The YTD Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances as of July 13 2026, shows: receipts \$1,014,309.30, disbursements \$531,509.67 and an ending balance of \$1,136,289.16.

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to approve the treasurers report for July 13, 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 Johanningmeier to approve the payroll and claims, including electronic transfers for July 13, 2026, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

OTPAC

There was a public hearing for River Ridge on June 15, 2026. This is a public road; it needs to be built and designed as a Township Road before the Township approves it.

There were 2 emails created by Charlie Brown from BRITTEE created for OTPAC Commissioners to use. These email addresses are not currently being used. Supervisor Matzke will address this at the OTPAC meeting. If they are not going to be used, they will be deleted.

Bolton and Menk

OTPAC would like Bolton and Menk to go over ordinances to clean them up and condense them. Supervisor Johanningmeier would like to receive a quote for cost from Bolton and Menk before approval of more than \$3,000.00

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier allow Bolton and Menk to review ordinances, up to a cost of \$3,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously.

Website

Supervisor Johanningmeier would like the website updated to include the driveway ordinance, access permit and driveway application all in one location. This will be updated by Treasurer Lind.

The TCPA contact is still Jered Stanton at the Township website. This has not yet been updated on the TCPA website. Emails will still be sent to Ethan or Janelle at TCPA.

Oronoco Auto Parts

The court ordered the removal of all material larger than one inch. The MPCA inspection is expected to take place later this week. The case may be closed by the end of the month. An additional update will be provided at the August 10, 2026, meeting.

Lake Zumbro Forever, LZFI

Representatives of Lake Zumbro Forever, Inc. (LZFI) requested that the Township reimburse \$4,200.00 for expenses related to the land transfer including; survey, insurance, and attorney fees.

Supervisor Johanningmeier suggested contacting the Lake Zumbro Improvement Association (LZIA) to discuss the possibility of purchasing the property when the bond expires, provided the Township is not required to reimburse the \$4,200.00 in fees at this time.

Pine Island Fire Department

The outside consultant retained by the Pine Island Fire Department recommended maintaining the current organizational structure. The consultant indicated that a joint powers agreement may not be the most effective approach and instead advocated for establishing a fire district that would include additional surrounding service areas.

The consultant also stated that constructing a new fire station is not necessary. Instead, satellite facilities could be leased, allowing volunteers who live within a three-mile radius to respond from those locations. This approach would establish the Pine Island Fire Department as its own taxing district.

The proposed purchase of a fire tanker will not move forward at this time. The purchase may be reconsidered early next year.

Clerk Notes

Candidacy filing for the Oronoco Township Board opens **Tuesday, July 14, 2026**, and closes at **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026**.

Town Clerk Schroeder will be available at Oronoco City Hall from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, July 28, 2026**, the final day to file for candidacy.

The Oronoco Township Election will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**.

The Minnesota Association of Townships District one meeting will be August 3, 2026, in Adams.

The annual rental rate for Oronoco Post Office boxes will increase from \$72 per year to \$78 per year.

The Primary Election is August 11, 2026.

There was a resident inquiring about chloride costs on Lake Shady Avenue. Clerk Schroeder directed them to Quality Propane to find out the cost of applying chloride to the entire road.

Clerk Schroeder was contacted by Carley Bruntjen of Aspen Ridge, wondering if the surety bond needed to be renewed. Clerk Schroeder will reach out to Attorney Ruppe to find out if this is necessary being that the roads were accepted by the Township in August 2025.

Adjourn

There was a motion made by Supervisor Johanningmeier to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Matzke. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Clerk Jody Schroeder

Tammy Matzke

Ken Mergen

Joel Johanningmeier