



ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

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The Orrock Township Electorate met, for their Annual Meeting, on Tuesday March 10th, 2015. The meeting took place at the Orrock Town Hall, 26401 – 180th St. NW, Big Lake, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas at 8:21PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Electorate. There were 36 residents in attendance, as well as the township's and engineer.

**CALL FOR A MODERATOR** Clerk Kimberly-Maas called for nominations to elect the Annual Meeting Moderator.

**WAYNE CHERMACK MOVED** for the nomination of Laura Gibson as meeting moderator. Ms. Gibson accepted the nomination.

**MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MICHAEL EISINGER.**

No discussion was made by the Electorate and a vote was taken.

The Electorate **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** to install Laura Gibson as Moderator.

**MOTION CARRIES.**

Ms. Gibson thanked the Electorate for attending the meeting.

**MOTION TO APPROVE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**MICHAEL EISINGER MOVED** to approve the 2015 Annual Meeting Agenda.

**SECOND BY ERIC PETERSON.**

The Electorate **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** to accept the 2015 Annual Meeting Agenda as presented.

**MOTION CARRIES.**

**CALL FOR MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF 2014 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**GARY GOLDSMITH MOVED** to dispense with the reading of the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes.

**SECOND BY BRYAN ADAMS.**

The Electorate **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** to dispense with the reading of the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION CARRIES.**

**CALL FOR MOTION TO APPROVE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**GARY GOLDSMITH MOVED** to approve the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

**SECOND BY MICHAEL EISINGER.**

The Electorate **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

**MOTION CARRIES.**

**BOARD OF AUDIT REPORT/FINANCIAL REPORT**

Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas presented the Township's Financial Report and the Approved Board of Audit Report, for year ending 12/31/2014 to the Electorate.

**SUPERVISOR COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Zimmerman Fire Report:** Eric Peterson presented information about the Zimmerman Fire Department (ZFD). ZFD reported that they were part of a new ISO rating audit. The preliminary results were that the ISO rating would be reduced to seven (7) or six (6). This change could potentially lower resident's home owner's fire insurance if their policy is with a company which uses ISO ratings to calculate their premium. The final results of the audit would be

**Minutes are UNOFFICIAL, until approved by the electors at the next Annual Meeting.**

known in another six (6) months. ZFD added another tanker to their fleet and additional hydrants were installed in some areas that have access to municipal water.

Big Lake Fire Report: Mike Meier reported on the Big Lake Fire Department (BLFD). BLFD is having a chili feed on Saturday March 21, 2015. This is a fundraising event for the Big Lake Food Shelf. The BLFD Board meets again on 4/16/15.

Road Report: Township engineer Mike Nielson of WSB and Associates, was present to report to the Electorate about the road study findings. He noted that our approximately 45 miles of paved roads are at a current Overall Condition Index (OCI) of 81.59, or VERY GOOD condition. He reported that this OCI is well above average, where average is 70-72 OCI. Part of the road study then creates projected amounts needed to keep the roads in their current OCI, for the next twenty years, which is the normal life expectancy of an asphalt road. The other thing that was stressed is that spending \$1 at the appropriate time for road maintenance can save \$7 in future repairs. Executing the correct maintenance process (crack sealing, chip sealing, overlay, mill and overlay), at the correct time, is extremely important in the performance of the asphalt and saves money in the long term. Once a road reaches the OCI of 70, it is considered to be at the level of monitoring until it is ready for reconstruct. To perform any maintenance is not cost effective when a road is at an OCI of 70. Currently 26% roads are in excellent condition (chip sealing needed). Seventy-two percent of our roads are in good condition (ready for overlay category). Bids have been received for chip sealing the roads that are ready for that process. It is anticipated that the Board will consider those bids and award a contract for chip sealing, at the March Monthly meeting. Maintaining our roads at the current 81.59 OCI would result in a need for \$1.8 million annually, for the next 20 years. To maintain them at an OCI of 75 would cost an average of \$1.4 million annually for the next twenty years. Mike Nielson explained that he and his company understand that the Township doesn't have those kinds of monies available to maintain the current OCI or an OCI of 75. Using other budget numbers results in the lifetime (when the OCI = 70) of roads to be reduced as such: Average levy \$600,000 = 11-12 years. Average levy \$200,000 = 8-9 years. Average levy \$100,000 = 6 years. Mike stressed that whatever the budget for road maintenance is his job is to direct the Board in spending the money at the right time on the appropriate treatment.

Questions from the Electorate: How long would the roads last at the \$350,000 level? Would likely reduce the life span to 9-10 years, but spending the money on the right treatment at the right time is key. What about other grants to assist with road projects? There are some grants available from time to time. Currently, there is one that is for safety improvement projects. To what do you attribute our current OCI and why would they deteriorate to a 70? A number of our roads are newer which brings the average up. Normal life cycle of a road is roughly 20 years, if you do nothing to the asphalt. Not being able to perform the routine maintenance at the appropriate time reduces the lifespan of the roads. Doing the routine maintenance at the appropriate times can lengthen the life of the road to 50-60 years.

Question for the Supervisors: How do the Supervisors feel the situation will develop in ten years if the budget remains at the level as has been suggested? The Electorate sets the levy. But to bring the roads to the current OCI is far beyond the means of our population. What hurts us is the fact that our ability to add homes is minimized by the green spaces of the state and federal lands. Add to that we enjoy larger lots, which further reduces the density and tax base. This is a new problem that came with the addition of the development of the land. The Township needs to create a plan to maintain the asset of the roads without burdening the taxpayers with the full cost. Some options are to talk to state representatives to get some help from the state to maintain the roads that lead into or go through state land and vacate roads/portions of roads that have no persons living on them.

Charlie Gotzian addressed the Electorate with information, from the Road Committee. The concern of ATVs rutting up the embankments to the edges of the roads, is also a cost that the township bears. The ruts need to be fixed at least once annually or the edges of the roads are lost. Some long term suggestions to fix this are products made to hold soil in place such as geo-textile, cable concrete and smooth fieldstone. The cost of purchasing and installing those products is substantial, but should help the problem. Another solution would be to ban ATVs in the township. The option of permit only operation was investigated, but the Board was told that policing that option is difficult at best.

Roads that go into or through DNR land are 253<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW off of CSAH 5 and 180<sup>th</sup> St. NW, past where Sue Dye lives, are ones that would be candidates, 233<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW east of CSAH 15, 164<sup>th</sup> St. NW and 147<sup>th</sup> St. NW, for vacation. But before that is considered there should be discussion with the State to see if there are funds available to maintain them.

Charlie also stated that 245<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW where the pavement ends and Bob Hassett, Gary Goldsmith and the Bialka's live should be considered for vacation. All three of those resident's parcels have dedicated road easements. The town's attorney has been contacted about this situation and stated that even though this section of road has become a dedicated road by prescription, it is possible to vacate it, due to the easements. Gary Goldsmith noted

that he felt there could be a long legal battle should the Board move forward with vacating this section of 245<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW.

**MICHAEL EISINGER MOVED** to allow the Board to make a portion of 253<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW east of CSAH 5, 180<sup>th</sup> St. NW that runs into DNR land, 233<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW east of CSAH 15, 164<sup>th</sup> St. NW east of CSAH 15, 147<sup>th</sup> St. NW east of CSAH 15 and the unpaved portion of 245<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW west of CSAH 15, minimum maintenance roads until further research and discussion can be done with the DNR.

Jeff Jones asked if the Board had checked with legal counsel on the ability of the Board to change the roads to a minimum maintenance status.

**MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

**The Electorate requested the Board to do further research on maintenance funding options through the DNR and other avenues and reporting back to the Electorate.**

Tree trimming is needed throughout the township. The question was asked as to if there is a current policy defining the amount a tree can breach into the ROW. It was suggested that a trimming schedule be created so it can be done a section at a time and be part of the township's routine maintenance. Another suggestion came to have a policy that puts the obligation to keep the trees and brush trimmed onto the landowners. And an ordinance which allows for assessment of costs of trimming back to the landowner, should the township have to trim trees and brush.

**The Electorate asked that the Board create a trimming schedule, research the ability to create and implement a policy & ordinance for trimming.**

Mr. Gotzian reported that there are four waste management companies that currently service the residents of Orrock Township. That creates a huge burden on our roads as trash trucks travel our roads four times every week and eight times every other week, when the recycling is also done. One possible solution is to contract with one hauler for the entire township. Bob Hassett offered his help to Charlie in researching this idea.

Mr. Gotzian reported that the section of 243<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW that runs west of CSAH 75 was a main through way, for traffic when two bridges were down for repair, a number of years ago. The road bed is essentially built on peat and is unable to withstand the normal limits of other roads in the township. He recommended that the Board permanently restrict the road to 5-ton or less, limit. Jeff Jones added comment that when the road is repaired, that it not be realigned. The cost to do so would be significant and there is no reason that the road needs to be straightened or realigned.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED 2016 TAX LEVY:

General Fund	\$ 100,000
Road and Bridge	\$ 500,000
Fire	\$ 80,000
Capital	0
TOTAL	\$ 680,000

Clerk Kimberly-Maas, presented the recommended Levy for 2016.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2015 PROPOSED TAX LEVY (MS 365.10)**

**GARY GOLDSMITH MOVED** to adopt and impose the levy amounts recommended by the Board, in the following amounts:

General Fund	\$ 100,000
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 500,000
Fire Fund	\$ 80,000

Total Levy: \$ 680,000

**SECOND BY JEFF JONES.**

**THE ELECTORATE VOTED 35 AYE / 1 NAY** to adopt and impose the levy amounts recommended by the Board, in the following amounts:

General Fund	\$ 100,000
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 500,000
Fire Fund	\$ 80,000

Total Levy: \$680,000

### **MOVING THE ANNUAL ELECTIONS FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER**

Bryan Adams presented the Electorate with information pertaining to moving the Annual Elections to November of even numbered years only. The reasons to move the Annual Election is to get a broader turn out of residents and there is a cost savings to the township. The Resolution to Initiate the Move of Town General Election from March to November, was distributed to the Electorate. The resolution, if passed would direct the Board to create a resolution to place a special question on the 2016 Annual Election Ballot and create a schedule to change the current terms of the officers to coincide with even year elections. The officer terms would be lengthened to four-year terms. For clarification Brenda Kimberly-Maas told the Electorate that the special question would need to pass in 2016 for the change to be implemented. She noted that the Treasurer seat follows the State General Election and the Clerk position follows the Federal General Election. She told the Electorate that *if* the question passes in 2016 there would not be another Town General Election, until November 2018. The Annual Meeting would still occur on the second Tuesday of March, regardless of there being an Annual Town General Election on that same day. Michael Eisinger noted that one negative to the move would be that voters may not be informed on the township candidates, when making their choices. He felt that voters would go through the ballot and mark for the “incumbent”.

Gary Goldsmith stated that ballots do not indicate “incumbent” on them, so that is a mute concern.

**CORRIE SILVERBERG MOVED** to adopt the Resolution to Initiate the Move of the Town General Election from March to November.

**SECOND BY BRYAN ADAMS.**

**THE ELECTORATE VOTED 34 AYE / 2 NAY** to adopt the Resolution to Initiate the Move of the Town General Election from March to November.

**MOTION CARRIES.**

### **CALL FOR BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Karel Lind addressed the Electorate. He noted that in the past sickle mowers were used to cut the ditches. Current practices are to use flail mowers, which do a better job of cutting. He asked if the Board would consider cutting the ditches only once as a cost savings. Clerk Kimberly-Maas commented that the township receives calls every summer about line of sight problems because of the tall grasses, prior to the first mow – which usually occurs mid-July. For that reason, she felt that there may be a safety concern if the Board only mowed one time each growing season. Michael Eisinger stated that the first mow costs \$ 3600 – \$3700 per cut.

### **SET DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING**

**GARY GOLDSMITH MOVED** that the 2016 Annual Elections be held on the second Tuesday of March 2016, which is March 8, 2016. Polls to be open at 10:00 AM and close at 8:00PM; and the Annual Meeting to follow 8:15PM.

**SECOND BY MICHAEL EISINGER.**

The Electorate **UNANIMOUSLY** approved that the 2016 Annual Elections be held on the second Tuesday of March 2016, which is March 8, 2016. Polls to be open at 10:00 AM and close at 8:00PM; and the Annual Meeting to follow 8:15PM.

**MOTION CARRIES.**

Clerk Kimberly-Maas noted that the results of the Annual Election were not known. The results would be read after the meeting was either recessed or adjourned for anyone wishing to stay and that the Board of Canvass would meet following the Annual Meeting to certify the results.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No Announcements were made.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN OR RECESS THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**MICHAEL EISINGER MOVED** to ADJOURN the 2015 Annual Meeting and Certify the 2016 Levy to the County Auditor.

**SECOND BY WAYNE CHERMACK.**

The Electorate voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to ADJOURN the 2015 Annual Meeting and Certify the 2016 Levy to the County Auditor.

**MOTION CARRIED to ADJOURN the 2015 Annual Meeting and Certify the 2016 Levy to the County Auditor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kimberly-Maas  
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 by the Orrock Township Electorate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annual Meeting Moderator

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk