



Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2025, 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday, Dec. 18th, 2025 at Orrock Town Hall, 26401 180th Street NW, Big Lake, MN.

In attendance were Chair Anne Felber, Supervisors: Paul Ellinger, Bryan Adams, Dalton Keiderling and Peter Owen, Treasurer Kellie McConville and Clerk Shelley Erickson. Also, in attendance were Sergeant Alex Dehn, Township Engineer Kevin Kruger, Township Handyman Darryl Waletzko, Don Bellach of the Patriot News and 7 members of the audience.

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Felber at 7:00 PM.

Call Meeting To Order And Pledge Of Allegiance

Chair Anne Felber called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of December Meeting Agenda

The December meeting agenda was approved with no additions or corrections.

Motion to approve the December meeting agenda made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Consent Agenda

The consent agenda containing routine claims and December payroll was approved with no discussion.

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Supervisor Owen, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Dehn reported that the Sheriff's Office handled 138 calls for service within the township during the previous month. Notable incidents included:

- Three stop arm violations, with all drivers identified and addressed

- Five thefts, with three being gas drive-offs at the Sand Dunes fuel station (all resolved with reimbursement)
- One theft of a hitch and mud flaps from a truck in a resident's driveway (no leads)
- One case reclassified as a civil matter
- Property damage at the gas station caused by a vehicle doing donuts, kicking up a rock that broke a window (driver identified, insurance information gathered)
- An abandoned motorcycle frame found at 253rd Avenue on 108th Street, likely stolen and dumped with serial numbers filed off
- One property damage accident at County Road 5 and 253rd Avenue with no injuries

Sergeant Dehn noted that colder weather might lead to issues on frozen lakes and asked if there were any questions or concerns to pass on to the Sheriff's Office.

Open Forum

There were no speakers for the open forum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The November monthly meeting minutes were approved with no changes or questions.

Motion to approve the November monthly meeting minutes made by Supervisor Keiderling, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Ann Lake Beach – Update

Chair Felber and Supervisor Ellinger reported on their meeting with representatives from Ann Lake. The meeting went well, with both parties discussing their concerns and hopes. A follow-up meeting was canceled due to a snowstorm.

Chair Felber shared that maintaining the grounds (mowing, snow plowing, gravel, dirt, weed whipping) would cost approximately \$3,300-\$3,500 per year according to discussions with township handyman Darryl Waletzko. She also reported speaking with attorney Bob Ruppe who remembered the original 1999 Trail and Waterways Agreement with the DNR that provided concrete planks for the lake access with the understanding the township would maintain the property.

The board discussed several options:

1. Close the park completely
2. Keep it open and maintain everything according to the DNR agreement (4 AM to midnight access)
3. Keep it open part-time (summer only)

Attorney Ruppe advised that if the board chose options outside the DNR agreement terms, he would need to renegotiate with the DNR. He suggested a minimum budget of \$5,000 would be needed for park maintenance, which would require levy approval at the annual meeting.

The board discussed concerns about future costs, particularly potential repairs to the concrete planks, ownership liabilities, and dock responsibilities. Supervisor Ellinger was concerned about the township taking on these responsibilities and the potential long-term costs.

After extensive discussion, the board decided to:

1. Keep the park open
2. Maintain it year-round without snow plowing in winter
3. Continuing the current maintenance schedule, which includes grading the parking lot

Further details regarding amenities (outhouse, mowing, dock, building use) would be negotiated between the township and lake association.

Motion to keep Ann Lake Beach park open was made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to keep the park open year-round without snow plowing in winter made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to maintain the current parking lot maintenance schedule made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

Options 2026 Cleaning Contract – Discuss/Action

The board reviewed and approved the 2026 cleaning contract.

Motion to approve the Options 2026 cleaning contract made by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Adams. Motion carried with Supervisor Ellinger abstaining due to conflict of interest.

January SCAT Meeting Meal Host Budget – Discuss/Action

The board discussed the budget for hosting the January Sherburne County Association of Townships (SCAT) meeting meal. The clerk noted that previous reimbursements for SCAT meetings had been around \$130-140. Supervisor Adams suggested a higher amount to allow flexibility.

Motion to approve a not-to-exceed budget of \$200 for the SCAT meeting meal made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the meeting would be held on January 21st and Supervisor Owen agreed to give a presentation about the township as is customary for the hosting township.

Security Camera Update – Discuss/Action

The clerk presented information about security camera blind spots and recommended updates. The proposal from Chris Johnson was to install a double-wide lens camera in front of the building and move the existing camera to cover the side door at a cost of \$1,177. The proposal also included glass break sensors for windows at the back of the building.

The clerk showed comparison photos demonstrating the blind spots in the current system. The board discussed whether the upgrade was necessary, with some members questioning if there had been any security issues to justify the expense. Chair Felber noted that there had been suspicious activity in the parking lot and that crime incidents had been increasing in the area generally.

After discussion about liability and protection of the township building, the board approved the security update.

Motion to install the recommended security updates not to exceed \$1,400 made by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting – Discuss/Action

The board discussed setting the date and time for the 2026 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. The proposed date was April 8th at 6 PM. The board briefly discussed whether to start at 6:30 PM instead but decided to keep the 6 PM time.

Motion to hold the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting on April 8th at 6 PM made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

Ducks Unlimited Wigeon Chapter #309 Application for Gambling Permit – Discuss/Action

The board approved the gambling permit application for Ducks Unlimited Wigeon Chapter #309.

Motion to approve the gambling permit application made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Roads

West Eagle Lake Rd Improvements - Update

An update was provided on the West Eagle Lake Road Improvements. Plans and specifications would be approved and advertised. The bid opening was scheduled for January 21st, with award expected at the January 28th meeting.

The project would include an alternate bid for two gravel roads, giving the board flexibility to award or not award that portion.

After discussion and clarification about which roads would be included in the base bid versus alternates, the board decided to include the extension of 188th Street in the main bid due to drainage issues and safety concerns.

Motion to include the 188th Street extension in the main bid made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

Sign Repair - Update

It was reported that the correct parts had finally been received for sign repairs. Darryl Waletzko would be completing the repairs next week.

Culverts, Weight Limits and Speed Limit Signs Maps – Information

The board reviewed information about culverts, weight limits, and speed limit sign maps. The only discrepancies found were with culverts, with some missing from township maps. One culvert was identified as not on the map, and several culverts or catch basins in an HOA area across from Saint Francis were not marked. It was noted that after the roads clear in spring, these would be marked to update the maps.

No changes were reported regarding weight limits or speed limit signs.

Resolution 2025-8 Resolution Temporarily Closing Certain Town Roads During Winter Months – Discuss/Action

The board considered Resolution 2025-8 to temporarily close certain town roads during winter months, specifically a portion of 180th Street Northwest west south of 262nd Avenue Northwest.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-8 temporarily closing certain town roads during winter months made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Adams. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Business/Updates – Committee Reports

Adams

Supervisor Adams reported attending the Annual MAT Conference but expressed disappointment that many distributors didn't show up, possibly due to weather. The acoustics were poor, the PA system was inadequate, and many speakers didn't use the microphone properly, making it difficult to hear.

Ellinger

Nothing to report.

Felber

Chair Felber reported that Supervisor Owen would cover the January 15th joint meeting with Big Lake. She thanked the board for their cooperation during the year, noting it had been the best year she'd seen for board cooperation and getting work done. She expressed appreciation for the mentorship from Supervisors Ellinger and Adams for new board members, and the overall collaborative spirit of the board.

Owen

Supervisor Owen reported implementing a road maintenance log in Teams with the clerk that records all phone calls, emails, and other communications about road issues. This improves communication and tracking of concerns, including residents' addresses, the nature of concerns, priority levels, and actions taken.

He also reported discussions with neighboring townships about snow plowing policies, finding that while they all have similar 2-inch trigger policies, other townships tend to plow after every snow event regardless of accumulation. Owen noted that Orrock Township had plowed 4-5 times so far, while neighboring townships had done 10-12 plowings.

Owen also mentioned discussions with Becker Township regarding 190th Street, reporting that Becker was surprised their engineer hadn't attended a scheduled meeting. The Becker Township road representative indicated they would "rattle some cages" about it. The 190th Street project is being pushed back to 2027 due to right-of-way acquisition issues.

Keiderling

Nothing to report.

Treasurer Business

Cash Control Statement and Investment Update - Approve

The Treasurer presented the cash control statement showing deposits and interest for the month. She requested transfers of \$458,651.24 from checking to money market and \$165.03 from checking to the debit card account.

The Treasurer also noted that the bank was offering a 5-month CD special at 3.85% interest, a 13-month CD at 3.4%, or traditional CDs with much lower rates. After discussion, the board decided to maintain status quo by keeping funds in the money market account rather than locking them into CDs, as the difference in interest would be minimal (approximately \$500) and they wanted to maintain flexibility.

Motion to approve the cash control statement and investment update made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Approve

The Treasurer presented the report showing general funds and their availability. Supervisor Adams noted that the general fund balance of \$376,000 was higher than the typical \$150,000 and suggested possibly transferring some to the Road and Bridge fund as had been done in the past. It was decided to address this when preparing the new budget in the coming months.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of November Sherburne State Bank Securities Pledge Validation – Review

The Treasurer reported that all bank balances were properly secured and covered by pledges, which she signs as needed.

Additional Claims – Approve

The Treasurer reported no additional claims.

Additional Disbursements Not Paid Through Claims Process - Approve

The Treasurer presented a Cisco WebEx payment made on the credit card last month that now had receipts available for approval.

Motion to approve the Cisco WebEx payment made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

The Clerk announced:

- January Board Meeting/Reorganizational Meeting on Wednesday, January 28th at 7 PM
- Joint Community Meeting on Thursday, January 15th, 2026, at 6 PM at the Big Lake City Council Chambers
- Sherburne County SCAT Meeting on Wednesday, January 21st with meal at 6 PM and meeting at 7 PM at the Sherburne History Center
- Changes to the Municipal Yard Waste sites starting January 1st, with information posted on the township website and Facebook page, including the need for residents to reset their waste cards

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:40 PM.

December Regular Meeting – Wednesday Dec. 18, 2025 – 7:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Erickson
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted on this **28th day of January 2026**, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Anne Felber, Chair

Attest: _____
Town Clerk