



Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday, October 22nd, 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, Kevin Krueger - Town Engineer, Sherburne Co. Planning & Zoning representatives Mitch Glines & Jillian Carson and 11 audience members.

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Felber at 7:05 PM.

Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees were asked to rise and remove cover for the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MEETING AGENDA

Chair Felber asked for any changes to the October meeting agenda. Hearing none, she requested a motion.

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved without any items being removed for further discussion.

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

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sergeant Alex Dehn the Sheriff's Office report for September 2025. He reported that there had been 123 calls for service in the township, which was down slightly from the previous year's September. He noted that the decrease was primarily due to fewer self-initiated activities such as traffic stops.

Sergeant Dehn highlighted several incidents from the month:

- A property damage complaint likely related to Big Lake Homecoming, where mailboxes were knocked down
- A motor vehicle accident involving a hit-and-run in the parking lot at Sand Dunes State Forest
- Four traffic complaints, including one about motorcycles doing burnouts outside the Gateway bar during a motorcycle rally
- A lost person case in the Sand Dunes State Forest that required extensive search efforts

Sergeant Dehn noted there had been a decrease in illegal garbage dumping.

Supervisor Owen asked about the possibility of increasing patrol presence on 233rd and County Road 15, mentioning unsafe driving behaviors and concerns about overloaded dump trucks likely related to the County Road 21 construction project. Sergeant Dehn agreed to pass this information along to patrol deputies.

Supervisor Adams mentioned finding garbage dumped along 233rd. Sergeant Dehn said he would add this to the patrol information.

OPEN FORUM

No citizens spoke during open forum.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair Felber thanked Supervisor Ellinger for covering the chair position in her absence for the September meeting.

Motion to approve the September meeting minutes made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Sherburne County Zoning and Solid Waste – Presentation

Mitch Glines from the Sherburne County Zoning Department provided an update on departmental activities. He explained that the department processes over 2,000 permits annually with zero levy on the department and receives over 30,000 calls yearly. A major current project is updating the zoning and subdivision ordinance, which hasn't been done since 1994.

The county has engaged Bolton and Maine from their St. Cloud office to update the ordinances, with Supervisor Keiderling representing Orrock Township on the steering committee. A second steering committee meeting was scheduled for October 27th, with public hearings expected in March 2026 and county board approval in April 2026.

Key findings from their review included needs to:

- Enable senior and lifecycle housing options
- Consider more mixed-use development
- Modify shoreland regulations for non-conforming lots

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- Address agricultural concerns regarding splitting farm parcels and water requirements
- Consider energy production and urban expansion needs

Glines emphasized that variance requests were common in townships with lakes, particularly Orrock Township, due to tiny lakefront lots and setback issues. He stressed the importance of township input throughout the ordinance update process.

The presentation also covered subdivision processes, wetland conservation requirements, and the role of townships in reviewing and approving development plans.

Jillian Carlson from the Solid Waste Department presented on several initiatives:

- A planned permanent household hazardous waste facility
- A new organics recycling drop-off program with 595 participants using five drop sites
- Grant programs supporting organics waste diversion in institutions and schools
- A successful mattress collection event that collected 908 mattresses
- Septic compliance tracking and financial assistance programs
- Upcoming changes to yard waste access cards in January 2026

Carlson reported that Orrock Township currently had 25 carryover violations from previous years and 19 active violations in 2025, with 3 resolved.

Ann Lake Beach Update

Clerk Erickson reported that she was working on obtaining a property address for the Ann Lake Beach to get an insurance quote. She shared information from the Ann Lake Improvement Club, which included details about an outhouse on the property built in 1964 with no record of the septic ever being pumped.

Steve Mockenhaupt, representing the Ann Lake Improvement Club, was present at the meeting. Discussion centered around the current agreement between the township and the club, with the club requesting the township take over responsibilities for garbage service, electricity, parking lot maintenance, restroom maintenance, and mowing.

Supervisor Ellinger expressed concerns about the outhouse's condition and suggested removing it and expanding the parking area. Steve Mockenhaupt clarified that the fenced area near the outhouse is swampy and unsuitable for parking expansion.

After extensive discussion about responsibilities and building ownership issues, the board voted to terminate the existing agreement with the Ann Lake Improvement Club.

Motion to notify the Ann Lake Improvement Club to terminate the agreement made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Adams. Motion carried unanimously.

The board agreed to contact Waletzko, LLC for a quote to remove the outhouse and to add this matter to the November meeting agenda to further discuss future arrangements after receiving cost estimates for potential improvements.

Permits & requirements from Sherburne County will also be looked into, and advice from the township lawyer.

Recycle Day Grant Reimbursement – Information

The township received \$2,602.27 in grant funds to reimburse recycling day costs, bringing the total reimbursement to approximately \$10,600. The net cost to the township was \$1,045.41.

2025 Polling Place Grant – Discussion

The board discussed a Grant offer sent by Sherburne County for polling place accessibility improvements. It was decided that the new building had worked well in the previous election and therefore the township would not pursue a polling place grant as the current polling place was already accessible with a ramp and no stairs.

Cemetery Records – Update

Clerk Erickson reported that Sherburne County History Center was contacted about housing cemetery records. They stated that they would be happy to house any documents that the Orrock Cemetery Association needed them to. This information was relayed to Lori Wilson, the main records keeper for the association. She said that while they could store more historical documents at the history center, they preferred to keep everyday working files closer to them.

The solution reached was that the association would put a copy of all files on a flash drive to be stored in the township safe and updated periodically, as recommended by the township attorney. The township office and/or personal will not be used for normal day to day operations of the Orrock Cemetery Association business.

EASEMENTS

Easement for Drainage Use on 233rd Ave NW – Road Committee Report

Township Engineer, Kevin Kruger, reported that the Road Committee had met on site and determined there wasn't a viable way to run a drainage pipe down to the wetland as originally hoped. The committee presented two potential solutions: installing subsurface storage tanks that would infiltrate into the ground, or putting in a pipe with treatment solutions that would outlet to the lake.

After discussion about costs and potential integration with future road projects, the board approved pursuing engineering studies for these options.

Motion to fund an engineering study for the drainage system not to exceed the amount of \$6000.00 was made by Supervisor Owen, seconded by Supervisor Adams. Motion carried unanimously.

Golden Oaks Development Unplatting – Discussion

Supervisor Keiderling presented a request from the Leines family to unplat the Golden Oaks development, which was platted in 1974 but never developed. The family was seeking township approval to remove road easements and utility easements from the plat, with the exception of those around existing roads.

A representative of the Leines family explained that the property had been in their family for 70 years, and they intended to return it to farming use.

Motion to recommend to the county that the township abandon the road and utility easements on Sioux Circle and Cherokee Lane while retaining the road and utility easements on 160th Street made by Supervisor Keiderling, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Four in favor. One opposed. The motion carried with majority vote.

ROADS

2025 Overlay Update

Township Engineer, Kevin Kruger, reported that the 2025 overlay project came in under budget with a final value of \$336,000. He noted that MPM, the contractor completing the work, had recently been bought out, creating some uncertainty about future operations, though the current contract would be honored.

Basins, Roads & Signs Updates

Supervisor Owen noted that the township's map of drainage basins needed updating as it did not include several developments. He also reported that sign updates were in progress with parts ordered.

Owen also brought attention to a washout issue at parcel 16618 on 240th Avenue, where a ditch drainage disconnection had created a 6-7-inch-deep washout that might damage snowplow equipment when frozen.

Motion to have Darryl Waletzko LLC. clean and modify the area within the easement to make it safe for township equipment operation made by Supervisor Owen, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed potentially developing a policy regarding driveways and their impact on township roads. Supervisors Felber and Owen volunteered to be on a committee to develop a policy or presentation to the board at a later date.

Tree Trimming & Brush Cutting

Supervisor Owen reported that brush cutting work had already started. For tree trimming, he presented a revised quote of \$24,999 to address problem areas at intersections and along roadsides where visibility was obstructed.

Motion to hire Waletzko, LLC. to perform tree trimming and brush cutting at a cost not to exceed \$24,999 made by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

Street Light Request

A resident at 18951 - 240th Avenue Northwest had requested township approval for a streetlight at a bus stop where multiple children wait. Connexus Energy had indicated a transformer-equipped pole was available, with an installation cost of \$375 and a monthly fee of \$6 for energy and maintenance.

After discussion, the board decided to deny the request, they were concerned about setting a precedent and the location would be across from the requester's property.

Motion to deny the streetlight request made by Supervisor Keiderling, seconded by Supervisor Felber. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD BUSINESS/UPDATES – COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board members briefly provided updates on their areas of responsibility. Supervisor Felber noted that the NorthStar train service was being discontinued after the last regular season Vikings game, with a two-year pilot for a bus service to replace it.

TREASURER BUSINESS

Cash Control Statement and Investment Update – Approve

The Treasurer presented the cash control statement showing bank statement balances and interest received for the month. She requested a transfer of \$17 to the debit card and \$344,305.01 from the money market account to the checking account to cover expenses.

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

Treasurer's Report – Approve

The Treasurer presented the report showing fund balances.

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

Report of September Sherburne State Bank Securities Pledge Validation – Review

The Treasurer reported that the township's deposits were properly secured with the additional amount in the new CD, maintaining a positive balance.

Additional Claims – Approve

The Treasurer presented additional claims totaling \$325,044.02.

Motion to approve the additional claims made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Felber. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reminded everyone that the November board meeting would be held on the third Wednesday (November 19th) due to Thanksgiving.

She also noted that the Sandhill Crane Migration at the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was taking place from October into November, with dawn to dusk being the best viewing times.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Felber, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:07PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Erickson
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted this **19th day of November, 2025**, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Anne Felber, Chair

Attest: _____
Town Clerk