



Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday, May 28th, 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, Darryl Waletzko, 9 audience members and the Patriot News.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Felber. Attendees stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of May Meeting Agenda

Supervisor Paul Ellinger suggested dropping item 7D regarding watercraft inspection. There were no other changes proposed. A motion was made to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion to approve the amended agenda made by Paul Ellinger, seconded by Peter Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Consent Agenda

It was noted that all items from the consent agenda would be moved to the Treasurer's Business section.

Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Alex Dehn presented the sheriff's report. He stated there were 122 calls for service in Orrock Township in the past month, compared to 219 in April of the previous year. He noted the overall call load was lighter this year, with fewer proactive traffic stops.

Sgt. Dehn highlighted some notable calls:

- Two trespass complaints, including one involving an unregistered camper at Sand Dunes State Park. This was resolved with the camper paying and registering for the site.

- A death investigation in the Sand Dunes area, which appeared to be a self-inflicted injury involving a non-local person.
- Two garbage dumping complaints in parking lots near Sand Dunes. The dumped items were removed, but Sgt. Dehn noted this is an ongoing issue in secluded parking areas.

Sgt. Dehn concluded his report and asked if there were any questions or concerns to bring back to the sheriff's office. No questions were raised.

Open Forum

Mark Kurtz of 18275 233rd Avenue addressed the board regarding water issues on his property. He stated the problem has existed for as long as he's lived there and becomes a traffic hazard when it rains. Mr. Kurtz mentioned that garbage collectors and postal workers have complained about the issue. He noted it affects 7-8 homes in the area and is particularly problematic for children walking to school when water freezes in spring.

The board acknowledged that Mr. Kurtz had previously submitted a video and image of the issue, which would be presented during the recent road tour report.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The board discussed approving the minutes for both the April monthly meeting and the May special meeting together.

Motion to approve both the April monthly meeting minutes and the May special meeting minutes made by Dalton Keiderling, seconded by Peter Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Tobacco & Liquor License Renewals – Discuss/Action

The board discussed tobacco license renewals for M & A Liquor Sales (DBA Sand Dunes Spirits) and Sand Dunes Food and Fuel, LLC. It was noted that M & A Liquor Sales had only one compliance issue in five compliance checks over the past five years.

Motion to approve the tobacco license renewal for M & A Liquor Sales LLC doing business as Sand Dunes Spirits and Sand Dunes Food & Fuel made by Paul Ellinger, seconded by Bryan Adams. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the liquor license renewal for Sand Dunes Spirits & The Get Away Bar made by Bryan Adams, seconded by Dalton Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Recycle Day Recap – Information

The board reviewed the Recycle Day recap. It was noted that overall participation was down, but Orrock Township's participation increased from 47 residents last year to 50 this year. Board members expressed appreciation to volunteers; Christina Keiderling, Shelley Erickson & family members, who helped at the event.

SLFRF & Paid Leave Reports – Information

It was reported that the annual SLFRF report was completed, and a new paid leave report is now required quarterly by the Minnesota employment agency. The township is in compliance with both reports.

Shoreland Alterations – Information

Information about shoreland alteration permits was presented. It was noted that a permit is required to remove vegetation, rock, or sand along a shore or otherwise alter the shoreland. The board agreed to post this information on the township website and Facebook page.

ADU Ordinance – Information

The board discussed the recently adopted Sherburne County ordinance No. 284, regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). It was noted that the ordinance is extensive and covers rules, regulations, sizing, and footprints. The board suggested that members review the ordinance in preparation for potential ADU requests in the township.

Prairie Restoration Update - TBD

An update on the Prairie Restoration Project was provided. It was reported that there are currently few noxious weeds, and native plants are progressing better than usual. The board discussed maintenance options and costs.

Motion to accept the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District's quote for maintenance and to get a quote from Darryl Waletzko to do mowing at 6 inches when Sherburne Soil and Water determines it's time to mow made by Paul Ellinger, seconded by Bryan Adams. Motion carried unanimously.

IT Update – Information

An IT update was provided, noting recent improvements to township computers and systems. It was reported that several issues have been resolved, and additional updates are in progress.

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

The board reviewed the application for a gambling permit from Ducks Unlimited Zimmerman Chapter #309 for an event at The Getaway. The event was described as similar to last year's gun bingo.

Motion to approve the Ducks Unlimited Zimmerman Chapter #309 application for a gambling permit made by Bryan Adams, seconded by Dalton Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Sherburne County Child Care Update – Information

The board discussed a new interactive map to help find childcare openings in Sherburne County. It was noted that the map is easy to navigate and the county website has other daycare resources.

Solar Farm Input for County Zoning – Discussion

The board discussed the county's request for input on solar farms. It was noted that some townships, like Palmer and Clear Lake, have expressed concerns about the number of solar farms. The board

discussed historical perspectives on solar farm regulations and potential issues with ownership changes and demolition responsibilities.

Relocation of the Big Lake Post Office - Discussion

The board briefly discussed the potential relocation of the Big Lake Post Office. It was noted that comments on the relocation must be submitted by July 11th.

Roads

Spring Road Tour Report

The board discussed the spring road tour conducted on May 3rd. Key points included:

1. Sinkholes: A motion was made to repair sinkholes, not to exceed \$15,000 apiece, with any excess costs to be brought back to the board for approval.

Motion: Bryan Adams moved to repair the sinkholes not to exceed \$15,000 apiece, and if it does exceed that amount, it will come back to the board. Seconded by Peter Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Tree Trimming: The board discussed the need for tree trimming in certain areas where trees are encroaching on roads. A specific safety issue was mentioned regarding branches obstructing visibility at a stop sign. It was decided that Darryl Waletzko would address immediate safety concerns and provide a price for a tree trimming crew by the next meeting.
3. Dead Tree Removal: A dead tree near 234th and 75th was identified as a potential hazard, especially for snowplows. The board agreed it should be inspected.
4. Boat and Pontoon Issues: The board discussed ongoing issues with boats and pontoons parked near roads, particularly on 188th Street at the cul-de-sac. It was decided to research property ownership and potentially contact the township attorney for next steps.
5. Greenways and Easements: The board discussed concerns about access to the lake through township-owned greenways and easements. A motion was made to have Kevin Krueger, township engineer, survey these areas.

Motion: Dalton Keiderling moved to authorize Kevin Krueger to survey any easements that connect to the road to Eagle Lake and report back on any encroachments. Seconded by Paul Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

6. A motion was made to have Kevin Krueger and Darryl Waletzko meet to discuss the best ways to address the drainage issue on 233rd street and cul-de-sac issues and report back to the board at the regular June meeting.

Motion to approve made by Dalton Keiderling, seconded by Paul Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

Golden Oak Estate, Cherokee Lane Property Line Vacancy

The board discussed a request to vacate a platted but undeveloped road in the Golden Oak Estate. The property owner wishes to build on the land but cannot meet setback requirements due to the platted road. The board reviewed historical documents from 1974 showing the township's acceptance of the plat.

The board decided more information was needed before making a decision. They agreed to:

1. Consult with the township attorney to clarify whether the township accepted just the plat or the roads as well.

2. Have Supervisors Dalton Keiderling and Bryan Adams meet with Marc Schneider from the county to discuss the situation and potential options.
3. Research the possibility of granting a variance instead of vacating the road.

The board emphasized the need to consider future development and access issues when making their decision.

Board Business/Updates – Committee Reports

Adams

No further comments.

Ellinger

No further comments.

Felber

Commented that she had visited the new landing on Eagle Lake during the Memorial weekend. It wasn't too busy and there were no parking issues on the township roads.

Owen

Supervisor Owen reported on the following:

1. The Woods of Eagle Lake road repairs are being considered for next year or the year after.
2. A letter needs to be sent to 25415 160th Street Northwest regarding parking issues on the street.
3. An update on the 188th Street project, mentioning that Kevin Krueger hopes to have plans ready for a neighborhood meeting by July.

Keiderling

Discussed Kevin Kruger meeting with the Big Eagle Lake neighborhood possibly in July.

Treasurer Business

Consent Agenda Items - Approve

The board discussed the consent agenda items, which included routine claims, payroll for May 2025, and additional April 2025 disbursements.

Motion to approve all three consent agenda items made by Bryan Adams, seconded by Peter Owen.

Motion carried unanimously.

There was a debate regarding the timing of pay increases for the chair and road authority positions. Treasurer McConville explained that because of the way the minutes from the previous meeting were written that she needed clarification on what the board had meant to do with regards to the timing of the pay increases. It was agreed that any motion taken at this meeting would supersede the previous months minutes.

There was a motion to rewrite the checks, stating that the new pay rate of \$175 should begin on May 1st, not for April's work.

Motion: Paul Ellinger moved to rewrite the checks, with the new pay rate of \$175 beginning May 1st for the month of May. Seconded by Bryan Adams. Motion failed 2 in favor, 3 opposed.

A second motion was then made to implement the pay increase immediately, including the current paychecks.

Motion: Anne Felber moved that the pay increase be immediate, including the current paychecks, with an additional \$25 for road authority and chair positions to be issued tonight. Seconded by Peter Owen. 3 in favor, 2 opposed, motion carried.

The board also discussed the format of financial reports provided to them. Concerns were raised about balancing transparency with privacy of sensitive information.

Cash Control Statement and Investment Update – Approve

The treasurer presented the cash control statement and investment update, showing balances in various accounts.

Motion to approve the cash control statement and investment update was made by Peter Owen and seconded by Bryan Adams. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Approve

The treasurer presented the report with details on various general ledger accounts.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Bryan Adams and seconded by Peter Owen. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of April Sherburne State Bank Securities Pledge Validation – Review

The treasurer presented the monthly pledge report for Sherburne State Bank.

Field Audit

Treasurer McConville and Clerk Erickson gave a brief description of the field audit and reported that everything went well. Only a small amount of assistance was needed by the previous clerk. The auditors will be reporting to the board at a future meeting.

Announcements

June Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 25th @ 7PM

MAT Town Law Review - May 30, 2025 – 8AM – 3:30PM - Rockwoods Event Center, Otsego, \$75 registration

Connexus Energy Maintenance Announcement – Begins this Summer – There will be tree & brush trimming, herbicide spot treatment, etc.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bryan Adams and seconded by Dalton Keiderling. The motion carried unanimously.

The May monthly meeting was adjourned at 9:14PM.

May Regular Meeting – Wednesday May 28, 2025 – 7:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Erickson
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted this **25th day of June, 2025**, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Anne Felber, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Town Clerk