



Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 26, 2025 - 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday March 26, 2025 at the Orrock Town Hall, 26401- 180th St. NW, Big Lake, Minnesota.

In attendance were Chair Anne Felber, Supervisors Bryan Adams, Paul Ellinger, Dalton Keiderling, Peter Owen, Clerk Shelley Erickson and Treasurer Kellie McConville. Also, in attendance were Gary Goldsmith – Consultant, Town Engineer Kevin Kruger, Sergeant Alex Dehn and seven residents. Also in attendance was the Patriot News.

A quorum was present, the meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Felber, at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited.

Approval of March Meeting Agenda

Chair Felber requested to add an item to the agenda under Regular Business regarding Gary Goldsmith's contract, which expires April 1st.

Motion: Bryan Adams moved to approve the agenda with the proposed addition. Peter Owen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included approval of routine claims and March 2025 payroll. Gary Goldsmith noted that it also included 3 supplemental claims distributed just before the meeting for federal quarterly income tax withholding, state quarterly tax, and a monthly payment.

Motion: Paul Ellinger moved to approve the consent agenda including the 3 supplemental claims. Dalton Keiderling seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Alex Dean provided the sheriff's report for February:

- There were 140 calls for service.
- Two property damage motor vehicle accidents occurred, but no injury accidents.
- One accident involved a vehicle swerving to miss a deer and hitting a tree. The other was a 3-vehicle accident at County Road 4 and 15 due to icy conditions.

- A discarded bathtub was found dumped at Ann Lake Campground. The DNR was notified and retrieved it. Extra patrols will be conducted to address ongoing dumping issues in rural areas.
- There was an altercation at the Getaway Bar that resulted in a high-speed pursuit into Mille Lacs County. The suspect rammed a deputy's vehicle before being safely apprehended.

Open Forum

Josh Belmore introduced himself and his local business, Micro X, which provides excavator-based brush mowing, forestry mulching, overgrowth trimming, and other land services. He distributed informational materials to the board. Chair Felber advised him to request being added to a future agenda if he wished to make a full presentation.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Dalton Keiderling moved to approve the February monthly board meeting and Board of Audit meeting minutes. Peter Owen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Presentation of DRAFT Annual Meeting Minutes – No Action Required

Clerk Erickson stated the draft annual meeting minutes were prepared and signed by the meeting moderator, Boaz Erickson. There were no questions from the board.

Posting of Meeting Videos Online – Discuss/Action

The board discussed options for posting meeting videos online, as requested by constituents at the March 11th annual meeting. Concerns were raised about camera angles, sound quality, and potential bandwidth issues. After debate about YouTube versus the township website, the board agreed on a compromise approach.

Motion: Chair Felber moved to have the two most recent monthly meeting videos posted on the township website, and to establish a YouTube channel to archive older meeting videos going forward. Dalton Keiderling seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Technology and Data Security Updates – Discuss/Action

Chair Felber and Clerk Erickson reported on their meeting with Kevin Thompson from Data Success regarding IT services. Key points included:

- Concerns about the supervisors using personal technology equipment for Township Microsoft account
- Need for inventory and analysis of current technology/vendors
- Recommendation against having township data stored on personal devices
- Potential equipment updates needed

The board discussed getting additional proposals, including from Sherburne County IT.

Motion: Dalton Keiderling moved to reach out to Sherburne County IT for a proposal. If they cannot provide services, the board will move forward with Data Success to have a firm estimate by the April meeting. If the county can provide services, the board will review proposals from both at the April meeting. Peter Owen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Compensation - Discuss/Action

Motion: Bryan Adams moved to table the discussion on supervisor compensation until the latest salary survey data is available. Peter Owen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Siren Updates - Discuss

Chair Felber shared a letter from Bruce Messelt regarding siren updates. Key points:

- The township is currently in a holding pattern
- There are discrepancies in the number of sirens listed for the township
- The coverage map shows potential overlapping coverage areas
- Ongoing maintenance will be required if/when the township takes over the sirens
- Further discussion will occur at the upcoming SCAT meeting

Sherburne Co, AUD – No action required

Chair Felber noted that Sherburne County sent a draft ordinance on accessory dwelling units, which will be presented to county commissioners on April 15th. The planning commission passed it unanimously. The public is welcome to attend the April 15th hearing.

Recycle Day Update – No action required

Clerk Erickson reported that the annual recycling day is scheduled for May 17th. Postcards have been ordered and one more volunteer is needed.

Contract of Gary Goldsmith – Discuss/Action

Clerk Erickson requested extending Gary Goldsmith's consultant contract, which expires April 1st. She noted his assistance has been valuable for navigating CTAS, paperwork, and programs. The upcoming field audit in May was cited as a reason for continued support. As part of this discussion clerk was directed to ask former clerk for potential help with audit assistance.

Motion: Paul Ellinger moved to extend Goldsmith's contract until April 1st and to ask the former Clerk and Treasurer for assistance with the May Field Audit. Bryan Adams seconded. The motion did not carry with three opposed and two in favor.

Motion: Chair Felber moved to extend Gary Goldsmith's contract through the completion of the field audit on May 13th to provide support for the current clerk and treasurer and help with the audit. Dalton Keiderling seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Roads

Abandoning Unused Roads

Dalton Keiderling presented a request from Ross and Mary Reno regarding unused platted roads adjacent to property they purchased near Eagle Lake. The Renos are unable to build on their land due to setback requirements from these unused roads. The board discussed options including variances or potentially abandoning the roads. Bryan Adams noted concerns about preserving drainage options. The board agreed to further investigate the situation and mapping before making any decisions.

Spring Road Tour – Discuss/Action

The board scheduled the spring road tour for May 3rd at 9:00 AM, meeting at Bryan Adams' house.

West Eagle Lake Discussion

Township Engineer Kevin Kruger proposed having the road committee conduct a site visit of the West Eagle Lake area to assess landscaping, retaining walls, and other features that may impact road work. He recommended developing proposals to bring back to the full board in April, with the goal of scheduling a neighborhood meeting in May or June. The board agreed this should be posted as an open meeting.

Board Business/Updates – Committee Reports

Adams

Bryan Adams had nothing to report.

Keiderling

Dalton Keiderling reported attending MAT training and noted townships can get free Amazon Prime business accounts.

Felber

Chair Felber provided updates on:

- The upcoming SCAT meeting on April 16th
- Sand Dunes State Forest campgrounds opening May 9th
- Attending the Big Lake Fair and a trip to DC

Owen

Peter Owen reported:

- Attending MAT training
- Receiving calls about vacating another road, which will be on next month's agenda
- Meeting with Kevin Kruger regarding 243rd Street and awaiting follow-up with Becker Township

Ellinger

Paul Ellinger reported:

- Signing up for the upcoming legal seminar and encouraged supervisors and township officers to do so as this meeting tends to be very popular
- Referring to comments made at the February meeting concerning bank overdraft fees for the year 2024, Ellinger stated that no overdraft fees had occurred and made the following motion

Motion: Paul Ellinger moved to direct the chair to write a letter of apology to Jeanine Arnold on behalf of the board and request the Patriot News include a statement that the overdraft fees were not the fault of the previous treasurer. Bryan Adams seconded. The motion did not carry with three opposed and two in favor.

Treasurer Business

Cash Control Statement and Investment Update – Approve

Treasurer McConville presented the cash control statement showing balances for various township accounts. She noted some initial difficulty balancing the accounts but was able to resolve the issues with assistance.

Motion: Bryan Adams moved to approve the cash control statement. Dalton Keiderling seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Approve

Treasurer McConville presented the treasurer's report showing receipts, disbursements, and balances for each fund.

Motion: Bryan Adams moved to approve the treasurer's report. Peter Owen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of November Sherburne State Bank Securities Pledge Validation – Review

Treasurer McConville presented the pledge validation report, noting it balanced with the bank accounts. No motion was required for this review item.

Approval of Treasurer's actions regarding PERA payments error.

Gary Goldsmith explained there were two separate PERA-related issues:

- A previous error where employee numbers were switched, which has been resolved.
- An overpayment made in January based on December's statement, which has been credited back.

A full explanation and request for board ratification will be presented at the April meeting.

Announcements

- April Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 23rd @ 7PM
- Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting – Wednesday, April 9th @ 6PM
- SCAT Meeting – Wednesday, April 16th @ 7PM (Dinner @6PM), Sherburne History Center

- Recycle Day – Saturday, May 17th – 8AM–1PM – Town of Big Lake Maintenance Building
- Township Legal Seminar – June 5th, 2025 – 9AM – 4PM – Albertville City Hall (Pre-registration required)
- City Fest 2025 Annual Conference – June 25-27 – Duluth (Pre-registration required)

Adjournment

Motion: Peter Owen moved to adjourn the meeting. Bryan Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Shelley Erickson
Town of Orrock, Clerk

Accepted this 23rd day of April 2025 by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Anne Felber, Chair

Attest: _____
Shelley Erickson, Town Clerk