



Regular & Reorganizational Meeting
January 28, 2026, 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026 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 Commander Ben Zawacki, Township Engineer Kevin Kruger, 6 members of the audience 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

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

Approval of January Meeting Agenda

Chair Felber requested a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item 9c, as the individual involved was not available and the item would be moved to next month.

Motion by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to approve the January meeting agenda with item 9c removed. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff's Report

Commander Ben Zawacki presented the December 2025 report, noting 173 total calls for service compared to 152 the previous month. He stated there were no significant criminal incidents to report for the month.

Sheriff's Office Annual Report

Commander Zawacki presented the annual report for 2023-2025, highlighting:

- Total calls for service: 2,063 in 2023, 2,220 in 2024, and 1,716 in 2025
- Criminal activity breakdown for 2025: 9 assaults, 2 narcotics cases, 8 DUIs, 2 criminal sexual conduct cases, 11 thefts, and 8 CDPs
- Most criminal activity categories showed a decrease compared to previous years
- Department updates on retirements, including several long-serving staff members

- Canine update: Unfortunately, canine Bronco had to be put down due to an intestinal flip. Currently, Deputy Bain handled by Deputy Nick Carlson is the only road dog, while a narcotics canine in the jail is nearing retirement
- Community involvement: Special Olympics Torch Run, Seniors in Law Enforcement Together event, Night to Unite, and Shop with a Cop program
- Significant cases: Government center shooting in July, jail assault on correctional officers, kidnapping case of a 7-year-old girl, Benton County conviction of Carl Holmberg who shot drug task force officers, and a burglary case with \$100,000 stolen
- Personnel updates: Hired 8 new patrol and TCS deputies
- Intelligence center completed 784 workups for surrounding agencies
- Drug task force worked 100 cases, seizing nearly 3 pounds of methamphetamine and 15 pounds of marijuana

Commander Zawacki also discussed ongoing projects including:

- Replacement of the Code Red notification system with HyperReach
- Remodeling of the dispatch center
- Completion of body-worn camera and squad camera upgrades
- Upcoming jail plumbing project
- New emergency tip line system following lessons from the kidnapping case
- Implementation of the Rave panic button system for county employees and schools following a government center shooting incident

The Board congratulated Commander Zawacki on his campaign for Sheriff following Sheriff Brock's retirement announcement.

Reorganizational Meeting Begins

Meeting Dates

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to approve the meeting dates as the fourth Wednesday of each month at Orrock Town Hall at 7:00 PM, except for November and December due to the holiday schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

Ratify or Change Chair, Vice-Chair & Committee Members

Chair

The Board discussed the chair position. Supervisor Owen nominated Anne Felber to continue as chair. Supervisor Adams recalled that Chair Felber had previously suggested rotating the position annually but no other supervisors expressed interest in the position.

Motion by Supervisor Owen, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to retain Anne Felber as chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair

Supervisor Ellinger indicated willingness to continue but offered to step aside if anyone else was interested. No other supervisors expressed interest.

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to retain Paul Ellinger as vice-chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Representative to the Big Lake Fire Board

The Board retained Supervisors Keiderling and Ellinger as representatives to the Big Lake Fire Board, noting that the contract would be coming up for renewal and their experience would be valuable.

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to retain Supervisors Keiderling and Ellinger as representatives to the Big Lake Fire Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Representative to the Zimmerman Fire Board

The Board decided not to appoint a representative to the Zimmerman Fire Board at this time.

Representative to the Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan

The Board decided not to appoint a representative to the One Watershed One Plan at this time.

Finance/Agreements Committee

The Board discussed the finance/agreements committee. Chair Felber suggested that Supervisor Keiderling replace her on the committee due to his financial background, while she would continue to attend meetings as an observer.

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to modify the finance/agreements committee by replacing Felber with Keiderling, Supervisor Ellinger remaining as committee member, and Supervisor Adams remaining as alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

Road Committee

For the road committee, the Board discussed changing the alternate from Chair Felber to Supervisor Keiderling.

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to retain the road committee as is with Supervisors Adams and Owen and Township Engineer Kevin Kruger, changing the alternate to Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy Committee

The Board agreed to maintain the current policy committee composition.

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Adams, to maintain the current policy committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Road Authority

The Board retained Supervisor Owen as Road Authority.

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger, to retain Supervisor Owen as Road Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning and Zoning

Planning and zoning representatives (currently Keiderling - Primary/Owen – Alternate) remain unchanged as they are in the middle of a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

Ordinance Committee

The board decided that an ordinance committee was not needed at this time.

Wages/Reimbursements/Fee Schedule

Ratify mileage reimbursement at current Federal rate

The Board discussed mileage reimbursement at the current federal rate of 72.5¢ per mile, up 2.5 cents from the previous year.

Motion by Supervisor Keiderling, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to approve the mileage reimbursement at the current federal rate of 72.5¢ per mile. Motion carried unanimously.

Compensation/Reimbursements

The Board reviewed the compensation schedule including supervisor pay, clerk and treasurer rates, election judge compensation, and other reimbursements. Chair Felber noted that the supervisor pay had doubled in recent years but emphasized that she actually receives less compensation now as chair than she did previously as a regular supervisor due to the change in payment structure.

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to approve the compensation and reimbursements as presented in the April 2025 monthly meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Fee Schedule

The Board reviewed the fee schedule and confirmed with staff that the current rates were appropriate and working well.

Motion by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Adams, to approve the fee schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions Authorizing Contracts with Supervisors

The Board addressed resolutions authorizing contracts with interested township officers under M.S. 471.88, subd. 5. Supervisor Adams provided historical context, explaining these resolutions originated when board members performed maintenance work such as snow plowing and mowing, though those tasks are now handled by contractors. The Board agreed to maintain these resolutions for emergency purposes only.

The Board considered each resolution individually, with the affected supervisor abstaining from the vote on their own resolution:

Motion by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to approve Resolution 2026-01 for Bryan Adams. Motion carried with Supervisor Adams abstaining.

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to approve Resolution 2026-02 for Paul Ellinger. Motion carried with Supervisor Ellinger abstaining.

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger, to approve Resolution 2026-03 for Anne Felber. Motion carried with Chairperson Felber abstaining.

Motion by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to approve Resolution 2026-04 for Dalton Keiderling. Motion carried with Supervisor Keiderling abstaining.

Motion by Supervisor Keiderling, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger, to approve Resolution 2026-05 for Peter Owen. Motion carried with Supervisor Owen abstaining.

Other Township Items - Ratify Current or Set New, Review

The Board addressed several administrative items:

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to approve items A (Official Posting Location – Outdoor Notice Board & Inside Entryway), B (Official Publication - Patriot News), and D (Designation of Legal Counsel – Couri & Ruppe, PLLC). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger, to approve item C (Official Depository – Sherburne State Bank and Minnesota Municipals Money Market Fund). Motion carried with Supervisor Keiderling abstaining due to working for a bank.

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to authorize the Treasurer to make electronic funds transfers for PERA contributions, payroll withholdings, tax deposits, and between town banking institutions. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Supervisor Keiderling, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to authorize Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk, and Treasurer as authorized signers on town banking accounts and as authorized signers and accessors to the Township's bank safe deposit box. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the list of recurring contracts with no changes.

Last Call For Reorganizational Meeting Business

No additional reorganizational business was brought forward.

Regular Meeting Resumes

Approve Consent Agenda

Supervisor Adams requested that item B (Regular Payroll – January 2026) be removed from the consent agenda for separate discussion.

Motion by Supervisor Owen, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger, to approve the consent agenda with item B removed. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed item B regarding payroll. Supervisor Adams questioned the appropriateness of a claim by Supervisor Owen for office work at the hourly rate, suggesting this should be covered by the monthly stipend. A lengthy discussion ensued about what constitutes compensable "work performed for township" at the \$20/hour rate.

Chairperson Felber expressed frustration with what she perceived as scrutiny of small expense amounts and recounted times when her own claims had been questioned. She emphasized that supervisors should be trusted to determine what constitutes legitimate township work. Treasurer McConville clarified that she was simply flagging unusual items for the Board's awareness and approval, not making judgments about their validity.

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to approve Supervisor Owen's claim for \$40 for inventory work. Motion carried with Supervisors Adams and Ellinger opposed.

The Board agreed that the Treasurer should continue reviewing claims but that decisions about whether work qualifies for payment should be made by the Board, not the Treasurer.

Open Forum

Gregg Felber (25409 189th Street, Big Lake) spoke regarding the veterinary clinic amendment that would be discussed later in the meeting. He expressed concerns about the proposed 5-acre minimum lot size for large animal veterinary clinics, noting other jurisdictions require 10 acres or locate such facilities in commercial areas. He cited concerns about horse trailers, infectious disease separation requirements from the National Veterinary Association, and medical waste management.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to approve the December monthly meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Business

Call for Board of Audit Meeting – February Regular Meeting – Action

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger, to call for the Board of Audit meeting to be held at the February regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Schlenner Wenner Audit Engagement Letter - Action

The Board discussed the audit engagement letter, with Supervisor Ellinger expressing concern about another \$2,000 increase. Supervisor Adams noted that townships are having difficulty finding auditors willing to work with them, as had been discussed at MAT meetings.

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to approve the Schlenner Wenner audit engagement letter. Motion carried unanimously.

Ann Lake DNR Proposal – Discussion

Chair Felber reported on developments regarding Ann Lake. She had consulted with the township attorney about options for the property and contacted the DNR to discuss maintenance responsibilities and the 1999 contract. The DNR expressed interest in taking ownership of the property.

Felber contacted Mark Schneider at Sherburne County, who indicated the transfer could be done with a quit claim deed since it would be going from one public entity to another. The township attorney confirmed this approach would require minimal work.

The Board discussed whether to retain the shed used by the Ann Lake association. Supervisor Adams suggested carving out that portion of the property, but concerns were raised about ongoing maintenance responsibilities and potential complications with splitting the property. It was noted that the DNR was aware of and willing to take on the non-functioning outhouse.

The Board agreed to have Chair Felber make another call to the DNR to explore options for the shed and continue negotiations, then bring the matter back for discussion at the February meeting.

2026 Township Comment Memo Veterinary Clinic Amendment - Discussion

The Board discussed a county proposal for veterinary clinic amendments to the zoning ordinance. Chair Felber, who lives next to the property in question, noted the proposal would allow large animal veterinary clinics on 5-acre properties.

The Board identified several concerns:

- The 5-acre minimum for large animal veterinary clinics seemed insufficient given space needed for separating animals with infectious diseases
- The 10-foot setback requirement was inadequate compared to veterinary recommendations of 35 feet for infectious disease control
- No provisions for medical waste management
- Lack of noise abatement requirements

The Board felt the 5-acre minimum for small animal clinics (dogs, cats, etc.) was reasonable and could potentially be reduced to 2.5 acres.

The Board agreed to submit comments recommending:

1. Reviewing the 5-acre minimum for large animal clinics with a suggestion to increase to 10 acres
2. Potentially reducing the acreage requirement for small animal clinics
3. Reviewing setback requirements to align with American Veterinary Association recommendations for infectious disease control
4. Ensuring adequate provisions for medical waste management

Roads

West Eagle Lake Projects Bids – Discuss/Action

Kevin Kruger reported on the bid opening for the West Eagle Lake project. Ten companies submitted bids, with Knife River Corporation being the apparent low bidder at \$744,691 for the base bid. An alternate bid for additional roads would add \$33,000 to the cost.

The Board discussed the alternate, with Kruger and Supervisor Owen noting this would be the most cost-effective time to include the additional work.

Motion by Supervisor Owen, seconded by Supervisor Adams, to award the contract to Knife River Corporation as the lowest bidder, including alternate 1, for a total price of \$776,791. Motion carried with Supervisor Ellinger abstaining due to living on one of the roads involved.

Taggart ROW Agreement – TBD

Supervisor Owen discussed an issue with a resident, John Taggart at 16721 256th Avenue Northwest, who had complained about snow plowing around his trailer. After investigating, it was determined the trailer was located in the road right-of-way.

Owen and Darryl Waletzko inspected the site and drafted an agreement allowing specific setbacks for the trailer, with 4 feet from the road edge on 256th Avenue and 7 feet on 167th Street. The Board discussed adding clarifying language that the agreement applied to "parking of your trailer or other motorized vehicles" and would be reviewed if road reconstruction occurred in the future.

Supervisor Ellinger expressed concern about setting a precedent without legal review, but other supervisors felt the pragmatic solution addressed the immediate issue while preserving township authority for future road work.

Motion by Supervisor Owen, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling, to approve the letter with the two clarifying changes. Motion carried with Supervisor Ellinger opposed.

Board Business/Updates – Committee Reports

Supervisor Adams had nothing to report given the late hour.

Supervisor Ellinger had nothing to report.

Chair Felber welcomed the new Orrock resident Caroline, daughter of Supervisor Keiderling.

Supervisor Keiderling reported on completing his Board of Equalization training.

Supervisor Owen reported attending the joint council meeting where he presented, as well as the SCAT meeting. He complimented the Clerk on the excellent meal provided at the SCAT meeting. Owen also mentioned signing up for county plowing alerts to better coordinate township plowing efforts.

Treasurer Business

Cash Control Statement and Investment Update – Approve

Treasurer McConville reviewed the cash control statement showing:

- Checking account: \$96,657.83
- Debit card: \$1,930.78

- Money market: \$1,870,847.61
- CD: \$266,416.80
- 4M fund: \$177,227.66

Treasurer McConville requested transfers of \$189.71 to the debit card and \$79,690.35 to checking.

Motion by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to approve the cash control statement and requested transfers. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Approve

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

Report of December Sherburne State Bank Securities Pledge Validation – Review

The Board reviewed the securities pledge validation report. Supervisor Ellinger noted a discrepancy in total balances between documents that needed to be clarified.

2025 Year-End Budget Review

The Board discussed the need to prepare the proposed 2026 budget for presentation at the March 10th annual meeting. Chair Felber emphasized that the finance committee needed to begin work promptly, as the budget would need to be approved at the February meeting.

Last Call For Regular Meeting Business

No additional business was brought forward.

Announcements

The Board noted the following upcoming events:

- February Meeting – February 25th at 7:00 PM
- Board of Audit – During February Regular Meeting
- Annual Meeting – Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- 2026 MAT Spring Courses – March to April
- Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting – April 8th at 6:00 PM, Town Hall

Adjournment

Motion by Chair Felber, seconded by Supervisor Owen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Erickson
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted on this **25th day of February 2026**, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Anne Felber, Chair

Attest: _____
Town Clerk