



Regular Board Meeting
March 25, 2026, 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday, March 25th, 2026 at Orrock Town Hall, 26401 180th Street NW, Big Lake, MN.

In attendance were Chair Anne Felber, Supervisors: Paul Ellinger, Dalton Keiderling and Peter Owen, Treasurer Kellie McConville and Clerk Shelley Erickson. Also, in attendance were Sergeant Alex Dehn, township engineer Kevin Kruger, 7 members of the audience and the Patriot News. Supervisor Bryan Adams was not present.

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 March Meeting Agenda

The board reviewed the March meeting agenda. Hearing no changes or corrections, a motion was made to approve the agenda.

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

Approve Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was reviewed, which included routine claims, March 2026 payroll, additional claims, and disbursements made not via claims. It was noted that there were no additional items to be included.

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

Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Alex Dehn provided a comprehensive report on February activities in Orrock Township. He reported 120 calls for service generated by the sheriff's office, including two stop arm violations - one at 239th Ave and 185th Street (unsolved due to no license plate obtained) and another at 253rd Ave and 189th where the driver was identified and dealt with accordingly.

Other notable incidents included one property damage incident involving a vehicle hitting the guardrail at Sand Dunes liquor store, one missing person case that was resolved when contact was made, one motor vehicle property damage accident at County Road 5 and 263rd Avenue (rear-end accident with no injuries), traffic complaints including suspected drunk drivers, and five snowmobile enforcement activities.

Sergeant Dehn brought attention to a current investigation regarding possibly overloaded trucks on 233rd Ave resulting from DNR logging operations in the Sand Dunes Forest. He explained that enforcement requires proper signage according to Township resolution 2015-1230, which establishes a 5-ton load limit per axle on 233rd east of County Road 15. However, by state statute, the road must be marked with signage at either end for the restrictions to be enforceable.

He noted that there are exemptions for raw forest materials, milk trucks, and grain trucks, but questioned whether these exemptions apply during road restriction periods. Deputy Petrosky had also checked 235th as trucks could use that as an alternate route.

Discussion ensued about the need for immediate signage to address the current logging truck situation. Township Engineer Kevin Kruger clarified that any roads leading to the restricted roads would also need to be marked according to state requirements.

Motion: A motion was made by Chair Felber and seconded by Supervisor Ellinger to erect signs according to the township ordinance on weight restrictions on 233rd and 235th on both ends and all arteries, seconded and amended to include all arteries by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

The board agreed to have the road authority install the necessary signage to make the weight restrictions enforceable and address the immediate concern with logging trucks potentially damaging township roads.

Open Forum

Greg Felber, residing at 25409 189th Street, addressed the board regarding the Minnesota state flag issue on the agenda. He provided legal background information, explaining that the Minnesota

state flags are only legally required by statute to fly over the state capital, with court rules requiring display in courtrooms during active sessions. He noted that there are no state requirements affecting local government flag display decisions. Felber mentioned that Orrock Township has traditionally not displayed any Minnesota state flag and suggested this may not be a significant issue unless the township decides to purchase a state flag.

Approval Of Meeting Minutes

The February monthly/board of audit meeting minutes were reviewed for approval.

Motion made to approve the meeting minutes by Supervisor Ellinger, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried with Supervisor Keiderling abstaining as he was not present for the board of audit meeting.

Regular Business

Presentation of DRAFT Annual Meeting Minutes – No Action Required

The draft annual meeting minutes were presented for review with no action required.

Recycle Day Update – No action required

Clerk Erickson provided an update on the recycle day preparations. Green cards would be distributed with updated pricing and more detailed information about television sizes, including the Minnesota Pollution Control logo. The cost was slightly higher than the previous year. The total cost for printing and mailing was \$1,042 (\$619 for printing and \$423 for postage).

SWCD Contract – Discuss/Action

The Soil and Water Conservation District contract was discussed for the ongoing native habitat project. The clerk explained that this project had been continuing for several years, with maintenance needed to control noxious weeds. The cost would decrease each year as the noxious weeds were controlled.

Motion to approve \$428.03 for services provided by Soil and Water Conservation District made by Supervisor Owen, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

Ann Lake Update – Discussion

Extensive discussion took place regarding the Ann Lake property situation. Chair Felber reported that she and Supervisor Ellinger had met with Ann Lake representatives two days prior and had productive discussions. A new update from Tim Edgeton at the DNR indicated they were progressing with inspections and considering improvements to parking lot signage and possibly a new dock.

The board discussed the need for an interim agreement between the township and Ann Lake Association while awaiting the DNR's decision on potentially acquiring the property. Several issues were addressed including:

The donation box at the landing was questioned for legality, as it could appear to be affiliated with the DNR when it actually benefits the Ann Lake Association. There was discussion about removing the "launch fee" sign while keeping the donation sign, ensuring proper identification of the beneficiary organization. It was decided that the donation signs must be removed.

The board discussed various responsibilities and costs that would fall to the township without an agreement, including electrical costs, garbage pickup, and maintenance.

The boat ramp planks were noted to need repair, with concerns about both safety and legal liability. Water levels were reportedly at historic lows, exposing normally submerged planks.

Motion was made by Supervisor Keiderling to continue working toward an interim agreement between the township and Ann Lake Association, seconded by Supervisor Owen. Motion carried unanimously.

Septic Outhouse Complaint at Ann Lake – Discuss/Action

The clerk reported that a formal complaint had been filed with Sherburne County regarding the outhouse at Ann Lake. She had contacted the county within the required seven-day timeframe and confirmed the township was working on removal. The county environmental specialist confirmed that permits were not needed - only a licensed septic maintainer to pump and fill the system with clean soil.

Two quotes were obtained - one from Waletzko LLC and one from Ende Septic Service LLC. Waletzko LLC's quote included all necessary work including landscaping and reseeding, while the other quote specifically excluded several items. The board also discussed electrical disconnection, noting the outhouse shared electrical service with the parking lot light.

Motion made by Supervisor Ellinger to accept the Waletzko, LLC quote for the outhouse remediation work, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

The chair investigated using park funds for reimbursement, noting the application allowed for remediation projects. Two separate applications would be submitted - one for the outhouse remediation (more likely to be approved) and one for the boat landing repairs (less likely as it might be considered routine maintenance).

Motion made by Chair Felber to submit a request for park funds to pay for outhouse repairs with the understanding that if not approved the township would still pay for remediation, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion continued about getting quotes for the boat landing repairs, with concerns about timing for the upcoming boating season versus the need for obtaining cost estimates.

Motion made by Chair Felber to get quotes for fixing the landing, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Supervisor Ellinger to apply for park money to pay for the potential cost of fixing the planks at the Ann Lake boat landing, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Compensation - Discuss/Action

Chair Felber addressed ongoing issues with supervisor compensation and consistency in approval processes. She explained that different standards had been applied to different elected officials compensation requests, with some being called out for detailed review while others were not. The township attorney was consulted and advised that the treasurer was under no obligation to flag a claim unless criminal activity is suspected, and that the board has the responsibility to pull questionable claims.

The attorney recommended creating a clear policy defining acceptable township work, especially for road authority duties. Discussion covered the need for better descriptions on timesheets for supervisors doing hourly work, rather than just work performed to help with categorization and record keeping. The board decided that the policy committee would return to this issue at a later date.

Extensive discussion took place about the increased workload and responsibilities of the current board compared to previous years, with reference to compensation surveys from other townships showing Orrock supervisors were significantly underpaid compared to neighboring jurisdictions. Supervisor Ellinger noted that the compensation for supervisors has been changed at least three or four times in the last four years.

The board discussed the need for consistency in treatment of all supervisor compensation requests and the importance of trust in elected officials while maintaining proper oversight and documentation requirements.

Historic MN Flag Request – Discuss

Discussion of the historic Minnesota flag request led to debate about which flag to display. Commissioner Felber had earlier provided legal background indicating no state requirement for local governments to display any particular Minnesota flag.

Supervisor Ellinger made a motion to display only the United States flag, which was seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. Discussion revealed this was viewed as a social issue which some of the board felt uncomfortable deciding without broader public input.

The suggestion was made that individual board members could seek public opinion through social media polls as private citizens.

Motion made by Supervisor Ellinger to only fly the American flag at the town hall, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. The motion failed on a 2-2 vote, leaving the current practice unchanged.

Planning And Zoning

Bahr Haunted Acres – Discuss/Action

The clerk reported on the Bahr Haunted Acres conditional use permit renewal, noting that previous concerns about parking appeared to have been resolved based on comments provided by Supervisor Adams prior to the meeting. The main historical issues had been parking in roadside ditches and traffic management during events.

The current application included provisions for security coordination with the sheriff's office, operational hours limitations, sound restrictions, septic system requirements, exterior lighting controls, and no-parking signs posted 200 feet in each direction from the property.

Board members suggested the 200-foot no-parking distance might need to be extended further. The board decided to submit individual written comments rather than make a formal motion, as the action required was providing township comments to the county for their decision-making process.

Roads

Spring Road Tour – Discuss/Action

The board discussed scheduling the spring road tour for April. It was agreed that all board members would submit their available dates to the clerk by the end of the week for coordination.

West Eagle Lake Improvement Project

Township Engineer Kevin Kruger provided an update on the West Eagle Lake improvement project. The project was experiencing delays due to county permitting requirements for water treatment before discharge to wetlands. The county was requesting treatment methods such as settling ponds or grass filtration systems.

The main challenge was the southeast corner near the pond wetland where space for treatment facilities was limited. The engineer was working to demonstrate that the curb and gutter installation would actually reduce untreated water flow compared to current erosion conditions.

The contractor had originally planned to start later in the year due to concerns about wet conditions near the lake in the spring. A specific start date would be provided once permits were finalized, with

construction likely pushed to August or September. Coordination with school bus routes would be necessary once the timeline was established.

Board Business/Updates – Committee Reports

Adams - Not present.

Keiderling - No report provided.

Felber - No specific report.

Owen - Reported on several items including the ongoing logging situation on 233rd Street with trucks carrying logs stacked very high. He had documented the current road conditions with photographs and noted cooperation with the sheriff's department for monitoring.

He would be out of town March 31st through April 6th for family vacation but would remain available by phone. He had signed up for the June legal seminar and was working to coordinate a meeting with Becker Township regarding 243rd Street improvements.

Owen noted positive public feedback on recent snow plowing operations, with comments that township roads were better maintained than county roads during recent storms.

Ellinger - Reported that he had signed up for the legal seminar.

Treasurer Business

Cash Control Statement and Investment Update – Approve

The treasurer presented the cash control statement showing balances in each account and requested transfers of \$610.16 to the debit card account and \$52,939.38 from checking to investments.

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

Treasurer's Report – Approve

The treasurer's report was presented showing detailed breakdowns by funds including general, road, fire, and capital projects with escrow information.

Motion made by Chair Felber to approve the treasurer's report as written, seconded Supervisor Keiderling. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of February Sherburne State Bank Securities Pledge Validation – Review

The securities pledge validation was presented for review showing adequate pledged securities to cover township balances. This was for review only with no action required.

Announcements

April Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 22nd @ 7PM

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting – Wednesday, April 8th @ 6PM

SCAT Meeting – Wednesday, April 15th @ 7PM (Dinner @6PM), Sherburne History Center
The SCAT meeting is scheduled for April 15th with dinner at 6PM and meeting at 7PM at the Sherburne History Center. Discussion of sirens will begin at 6PM.

Recycle Day – Saturday, May 16th – 8AM-1PM – Town of Big Lake Maintenance Building

Township Legal Seminar – June 25th, 2025 – 9AM – 4PM – Albertville City Hall (Pre-registration required)

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned 9:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Erickson
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted on this **22nd day of April 2026**, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Anne Felber, Chair

Attest: _____
Town Clerk