



Regular Board Meeting
April 22, 2026, 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday, April 22, 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 Sergeant Alex Dehn, Darryl Waletzko, 14 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 meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval Of April Meeting Agenda

Chair Felber asked if there were any questions or changes to the agenda. Hearing none, she requested a motion to approve.

Motion to approve the April meeting agenda made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Consent Agenda

Chair Felber asked if there were any changes or questions regarding the consent agenda.

Supervisor Owen made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff's Report

Sergeant Alex Dehn provided the monthly report, noting that March was busier than the previous year with 175 CADs (Computer Aided Dispatch) generated versus 140 last year. He provided details on various incidents including a theft that was determined to be a civil matter between associates, an

assault between two juveniles where one was charged, and drugs found at a group home that were confiscated and disposed of by the sheriff's office when ownership could not be determined.

Property damage incidents included a camper delivery that clipped a garage and which were accidental. A muzzleloader was found near the state forest entrance and taken for safekeeping. Two motor vehicle property damage accidents occurred in parking lots at Hand Leg and Gateway Bar. He reported increased activity in the state forest with warmer weather and increased patrol presence there.

Sergeant Dehn also provided an update on 233rd Avenue regarding logging trucks, explaining that after investigation and consultation with the state, an agreement from 2018 was located showing the road was constructed to 10 tons. He recommended updating the township resolution for both 233rd and 168th Street. He also clarified that according to the state patrol commercial truck enforcement trooper, the road aprons leading off the road are considered "sacrificial" and not part of the actual roadway construction, so damage to these areas doesn't count against the road itself.

Supervisor Owen thanked the sheriff's department for their response to a family medical emergency involving his mother, specifically appreciating Deputy Casey's communication throughout the incident.

Open Forum

Gregg Felber of 25409 180th Street addressed the board regarding the veterinary ordinance, expressing concern that the planning commission was trying to fit a veterinary clinic onto a 5-acre property when it wouldn't work under any circumstances. He argued that animals may stay overnight at such facilities, requiring multiple professionals on site including acupuncturists, chiropractors, and farriers. Felber warned that cramming such operations onto small properties would create problems for neighbors, citing his own experience with sand and manure clouds from neighboring properties. He urged the board to direct the planning and zoning commission to maintain the 10-acre requirement consistent with neighboring counties.

Approval Of Meeting Minutes

March Monthly Meeting

Chair Felber asked if there were any questions or changes to the March monthly meeting minutes.

Supervisor Ellinger moved to approve, Supervisor Keiderling providing the second. The motion carried with one abstention from Supervisor Adams who did not attend that meeting.

Annual Local Board of Appeal and Equalization

Chair Felber asked if there were any questions or changes to the annual local board of appeal and equalization minutes.

Supervisor Keiderling made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Adams. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Regular Business

Handyman Services Contract Renewal – Discuss/Action

Chair Felber noted the contract was included in the packet and asked if there were any questions or concerns. When asked about price changes, it was confirmed that everything remained the same with no changes from the previous year.

Supervisor Ellinger moved for approval of the renewal, with Supervisor Adams providing the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Snow Removal Contract Renewal – Discuss/Action

The snow removal contract was in the same situation as the handyman contract. Supervisor Adams confirmed with Darryl Waletzko that there were no changes to the existing terms.

Supervisor Adams moved for approval, with Supervisor Keiderling providing the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Gopher Bounty Resolution – Information

Discussion centered on the county changing their bounty from \$2 to \$1, while Orrock maintained their \$2 bounty. The board discussed whether to match the county's rate but decided the administrative work of changing wasn't worth it, especially since they only had one person claim the bounty last year. This item was informational only and required no action.

Healing Heartbeats Thru Hoofbeats – Discuss/Action

The board reviewed an application for an exempt gambling premise permit for bingo events at the Gateway Bar. Supervisor Adams clarified this was for bingo only.

Motion to approve made by Supervisor Adams, seconded by Supervisor Ellinger. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was paused briefly to allow the permit to be signed and the representatives to leave.

Ann Lake Update – Discuss/TBD

Chair Felber reported that she and Supervisor Ellinger met with Ann Lake board members as directed
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to work on an interim agreement, but the Ann Lake Association wanted a long-term agreement instead. They provided a proposal at the last minute that the board had only received the day before the meeting.

Extensive discussion followed regarding the merits of entering into a long-term agreement. Supervisor Adams advocated reinstating their previous agreement, suggesting a 10–20-year term would prevent recurring issues. Supervisor Ellinger expressed concerns about not having enough time to review the complex proposal and suggested intervals for future board awareness.

Supervisor Keiderling raised insurance concerns about the building, wanting to ensure the township wouldn't be left with deteriorated infrastructure if the agreement ended. Chair Felber strongly opposed giving the facility back to the Ann Lake Association, citing unexpected expenses already incurred and concern about future financial liabilities. She argued the township gained nothing while taking on potential problems and liability for what amounts to parking for only 5-6 cars.

Discussion about building ownership arose, with uncertainty about what would happen to the building if operations transferred to the DNR. The Chair noted the DNR had expressed willingness to discuss arrangements with the Ann Lake Association.

Motion: Chair Felber moved to table the matter until legal counsel and planning/zoning could resolve questions about building ownership. Supervisor Keiderling seconded the motion. The motion carried with Felber, Keiderling and Owen in favor and Adams & Ellinger opposed.

Commissioner Felber provided clarification about the park board's decision on the township's \$5,000 reimbursement request, explaining that only \$1,700 was approved for what was considered an "improvement" (filling and leveling), while other costs were deemed maintenance. He noted the county attorney agreed with the park board's interpretation, and future funding would only be available for actual park improvements like shelters or ADA-compliant facilities.

Sirens – Discuss/TBD

Chair Felber & Supervisors Ellinger and Adams had attended the SCAT meeting where they had a pre-meeting with county officials about the sirens. It was noted that sirens have limited future viability due to inability to obtain spare parts, though they can cannibalize parts from other sirens temporarily.

The county presented two digital alternatives: IPAWS (a federal program) and Hyper Reach, both working through cellular phones and both free to implement. Supervisor Adams expressed concerns about cellular system reliability during emergencies, referencing past experience with system failures during natural disasters. Supervisor Ellinger noted that Hyper Reach could connect to home systems like Alexa speakers.

The board reviewed a coverage map showing Orrock has six sirens with overlapping coverage, noting they could potentially reduce to three sirens if they chose to maintain some. The cost to maintain all six sirens was calculated at approximately \$18,000 annually, with additional decommissioning costs of about \$4,200 if they chose to exit the program later.

Discussion of alternatives included the possibility of purchasing weather radios for residents, which one SCAT member suggested would be cheaper than maintaining sirens. The board noted that technology had advanced significantly since past decades, with most residents having access to weather information through various devices.

The county required a decision by July 1st, with any retained sirens becoming the township's maintenance responsibility. If the township opted out, the county would handle decommissioning at no cost to the township.

Motion: Supervisor Keiderling moved to not retain any sirens and rely strictly on digital alternatives, citing cost savings and the dying nature of the siren system. Supervisor Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried with one opposed vote from Supervisor Owen.

The board discussed implementing an educational campaign to inform residents about the change, with suggestions for multiple communication methods including newspaper articles, Facebook presence, direct mailings, and website notifications. They agreed to revisit the communication strategy at future meetings.

Planning And Zoning

Environmental Regulations And Building Code Outreach – Information

Chair Felber noted that informational materials from planning and zoning would be posted on the bulletin board, in the town hall, and on the township website. She reminded the board that these are county issues and people should be referred to the county for questions.

Sherburne County Zoning And Subdivision Ordinance Updates

Chair Felber presented the large packet of zoning ordinance updates that had been long anticipated. The documents included red-lined and highlighted changes for subdivision ordinance updates, short-term rental ordinance updates, and zoning ordinance updates.

Supervisor Keiderling raised questions about section 7.1b of the short-term rental enforcement section regarding intentional false reporting of violations. He was unclear whether this applied to neighbors reporting on short-term rentals and was confused about how false reporting would count as one of three strikes when the reporter wasn't the operator. He felt the \$100 fine for first offense was too low for intentional false reporting aimed at shutting down someone's business.

The board discussed the veterinary ordinance that was expected to return but wasn't included in the current packet. Supervisor Keiderling provided updates from recent zoning commission meetings, noting discussions about 5 acres versus 10 acres, containment areas, overnight animal stays, and animal unit limits.

Supervisor Keiderling explained that Minnesota rules require containment pens to be 200 yards from any border, making it impossible to fit such a facility on 5 acres. He noted the conflict between the applicant's assertion that no overnight animals would ever be kept versus the practical reality of veterinary emergencies.

Chair Felber had already submitted public comments identifying 13 conflicts between the proposed veterinary ordinance and existing comprehensive plans and ordinances.

Supervisor Keiderling noted the ordinance wasn't ready for comment and would email any updates to the clerk for distribution. The public hearing was scheduled for May 21st.

Bahr Haunted Acres Driveway Request

The applicant did not appear and provided no additional information for their second driveway request. During the road tour, the board had observed concerns about proposed parking in ditches and drainage issues, but without the applicant present, no action was taken.

Roads

2026 Spring Road Tour – Discussion

Supervisor Owen reported a successful road tour on Saturday where they identified potholes and areas needing attention. Supervisor Keiderling was preparing an Excel spreadsheet to pass along for obtaining bids on hole repairs, tree trimming, and shoulder work. Overall, the roads were in fairly decent condition.

Supervisor Adams emphasized the importance of continuing the 3% levy for the road and bridge fund, noting ongoing deterioration requiring future expensive repairs. The board confirmed their intention to maintain the 3% levy as planned in their financial projections to avoid large spikes in future costs.

Street Sweeping – Discussion

Supervisor Owen reported that Waletzko LLC had requested \$8,000 for street sweeping, an increase from the previous \$5,000 due to additional product used in some areas.

Motion: Supervisor Owen moved to approve \$8,000 for street sweeping. Seconded by Supervisor Adams. Motion carried.

The board requested a firm start date to post on the website and reduce phone calls to the clerk.

Two Sinks Holes On 181st Street – Discussion

Supervisor Owen reported two sinkholes requiring repair, recommending \$17,000 per hole based on their larger size and past experience with similar repairs. Supervisor Adams suggested a total authorization of \$35,000 for flexibility. Supervisor Keiderling noted this exceeded their \$30,000 budget by \$4,000.

Motion: Supervisor Ellinger moved to approve \$17,000 per sinkhole. Supervisor Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Weight Limit Signs On 233rd East Of Co Rd 15 – Discussion

Chair Felber explained she had received calls while Supervisor Owen was out of town regarding weight limits on 233rd. Through coordination with Deputy Petrosky and Trent from the DNR, they had obtained documentation showing the road was constructed to 10 tons.

The clerk confirmed that roads without specific weight limit signage default to 10-ton capacity under state rules, so no additional signage was required.

Board Business/Updates – Committee Reports

Adams

Nothing to share.

Ellinger

Nothing to share.

Felber

Reported attending the SCAT meeting and handling various small issues multiple times per week, all of which had been covered in the evening's discussion.

Owen

Owen reported participating in the spring road tour and announced an upcoming Friday meeting with Becker Township regarding 243rd Avenue, an issue that had been pending for about 18 months.

Keiderling

Keiderling reported that someone had contacted him after the road tour about a dead-end sign on 233rd Avenue that was completely covered by trees, requesting it be added to the tree trimming list. Owen confirmed he would address this issue.

Treasurer Business

Cash Control Statement And Investment Update – Approve

The treasurer presented cash control statements showing balances across checking, debit card, money

market, CD and foreign funds accounts, with interest calculations balancing to checking and bank accounts. She requested transferring excess funds from the debit card account back to checking to maintain the \$2,000 limit, though after discussion the board agreed to leave balances as-is to avoid unnecessary transactions.

Motion: Supervisor Ellinger moved to approve the cash control statement and investment update without the transfer adjustment. Supervisor Keiderling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the detailed fund balances and ending balances report.

Motion: Supervisor Adams moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of March Sherburne State Bank Securities Pledge Validation

The treasurer reported securities continue to cover the township's deposits adequately. This item was for review only and required no action.

Announcements

The clerk announced the May board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 PM, Recycle Day on Saturday, May 16th from 8AM-12PM at the Town of Big Lake Maintenance Building, Township Legal Seminar on June 25, 2026 at Albertville City Hall, League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference June 24-26, 2026 in Rochester, and information about DNR prescribed burns in Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge.

Adjournment

Motion: Supervisor Owen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Ellinger and carried unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Erickson
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted on this **27th day of May 2026**, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Anne Felber, Chair

Attest: _____
Town Clerk