



Regular Board Meeting
August 26, 2026 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday, August 26, 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, Township Engineer Kevin Kruger, Township Handyman Darryl Waletzko, 17 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 Felber called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING AGENDA

Chair Felber called for any changes or updates to the agenda. Hearing none, a motion was made to approve.

Motion to approve the August meeting agenda was made by Supervisor Keiderling and seconded by Supervisor Ellinger. The motion carried.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

The Treasurer noted that two additional late-arriving claims — from Options and Midco — had been added to the routine claims at the bottom of the consent agenda. The Board confirmed they had an opportunity to review the additions.

Motion to approve the consent agenda, including the two additional late claims, was made by Supervisor Adams and seconded by Supervisor Owen. The motion carried.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sergeant Alex Dehn reported that the Sheriff's Office generated 168 calls for service in Orrock Township during the month of July, up from 140 calls in July of the prior year. He noted the increase was consistent with county-wide trends, attributing the uptick in large part to seasonal activity.

Notable incidents included: an assault at a group home resulting in a hospital hold and criminal charge; several mailboxes struck by a vehicle; a restraining order violation; four fraud complaints, one of which involved identity theft with confirmed financial loss and is under active investigation; two fires, including a grass fire near County Road 15 and 251st Avenue extinguished by fire personnel before it spread significantly; a contractor-caused gas main strike at a private residence, resolved by Xcel Energy; an unsafe boating complaint on Ann Lake involving jet skiers near paddle boarders; a parking complaint resolved upon discovery of a vehicle with a broken timing chain; and a vandalism case in the 19900 block of 261st Avenue involving a stolen tractor key and tractor parts, with no suspects identified.

Supervisor Ellinger noted that the disturbing peace count appeared higher than other months. Sergeant Dehn noted that the rise in disturbing-the-peace calls is typical during summer months, as these encompass a range of incidents including domestic disturbances without criminal charges, noise complaints, and loud gatherings on the water.

Chair Felber thanked Sergeant Dehn and invited questions from constituents in attendance; none were raised.

OPEN FORUM

The Chair called for open forum three times. No members of the public came forward. Open forum was closed.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the July Monthly Meeting minutes as presented was made by Supervisor Ellinger and seconded by Supervisor Owen. The motion carried, with Supervisor Adams abstaining as he was not present at the July meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Primary Election – Information

The Clerk reported on the August 11th primary election. There were 2,881 registered voters as of 7:00 AM on election day, with 12 election day registrations. The township saw 607 in-person voters and 74 absentee voters — a dramatic increase from the 2024 primary, which had 137 in-person and 20 absentee voters. The Clerk credited the 11 election judges, including three first-timers, for the smooth operation, and noted that all judges have committed to returning for the November general election, with two additional judges expressing interest.

Chair Felber extended thanks to the Clerk and staff for their work, noting the high turnout was unsurprising given competitive primary contests on both sides. This item was informational; no action was taken.

Candidate Filings – Information

Chair Felber noted candidate filings for the three board seats and the treasurer's position currently up for election, and directed the public to the Secretary of State's website for further information. This item was informational; no action was taken.

Township Lawn Mower – Discussion

The Clerk reported that only one offer had been received for the township lawn mower, for \$100. Supervisor Ellinger confirmed he and Supervisor Adams had assessed the mower, found it operational after replacing an electrical cord, and that it does run. Discussion reflected that \$100 was considered a low offer for a running machine, though a motion to accept the offer was ultimately made.

Motion to accept the \$100 offer for the Township lawn mower was made by Supervisor Ellinger and seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. The motion carried.

The Clerk was directed to notify the interested party, with the understanding that the Board would be informed if the individual changed his mind.

Recycle Day Grant Reimbursement – Information

The Clerk reported that Orrock Township's total recycle day grant reimbursement was \$5,156.16. This item was informational; no action was taken.

Legal Communication Regarding Ann Lake – Information

The Clerk reported on her conversation with the Township's legal counsel following the July meeting. She relayed the board's concerns as well as those of Ann Lake area residents. The attorney acknowledged that the DNR operates on its own timeline. When asked about the 2016 agreement, the attorney stated he did not recall drafting it and would need to review his records. He advised that if the board wished to enter into a new agreement with the Ann Lake Improvement Association, he would draft a new one and recommended that an escrow arrangement be included. The Clerk conveyed this information to the board for informational purposes.

Ann Lake Discussion – Discuss/TBD

Chair Felber summarized the context: the township attorney's stated lack of recollection of the prior agreement, an updated draft agreement brought forward by Supervisor Adams, a letter from the former clerk, and a recent email from DNR Area Supervisor Nikki Hegna, who had been out of the office for two weeks and reported she had reached out to the DNR Lands Acquisition Division for an update and would follow up when she heard back.

Supervisor Adams moved to approve the updated agreement as amended, arguing the issue had become unnecessarily complicated. He noted that Ann Lake Improvement Club had modified its requirements, that the original agreement was already attorney-drafted, that other townships in Minnesota do maintain boat launch facilities, and that spending additional legal fees was unnecessary. Supervisor Ellinger seconded the motion to place it on the table for discussion.

A lengthy discussion followed. Supervisor Keiderling raised the question of the escrow's purpose now that the boat landing issue had been temporarily resolved by the club. Supervisor Ellinger agreed the landing repair was encouraging but had concerns about future costs — specifically what it would cost to replace one or two landing planks. Township maintenance staff indicated that replacement planks may be available at no cost through state DNR grants, with installation taking approximately half an hour and involving only two bolts, suggesting the cost of ongoing maintenance is relatively minimal.

Chair Felber expressed an unwillingness to proceed without attorney review, noting that laws can change over 17 years and that the township enters no contracts — road agreements, park agreements, or otherwise — without legal counsel. Supervisor Ellinger and Supervisor Adams pushed back on the cost and delay of continued attorney involvement, with Supervisor Keiderling and Chair Felber noting that three board seats are up for election, and that incoming members who are Ann Lake residents may have a conflict of interest and be unable to vote on the matter, making it preferable to resolve it now.

Discussion turned to the escrow amount. Chair Felber suggested that the township's previously estimated cost to maintain the property — approximately \$3,000 per year including snow plowing, or \$1,500 per year without — could serve as a benchmark. Supervisor Keiderling suggested a one-year escrow rather than five, noting it would provide sufficient time to transition to DNR management if the club were unable to fulfill its obligations. The shed on the property was also briefly discussed; Chair Felber clarified that the building is insured by the township for liability only, and that the township owns the building.

The motion to approve the agreement as-is failed, with Supervisors Ellinger, Keiderling, Owen and Chair Felber voting in opposition and Supervisor Adams voting in favor.

Supervisor Ellinger then moved that the board direct the township attorney to review the draft agreement and specifically determine whether an escrow is legally required for an arrangement involving a public lake and a non-profit group, and if so, to recommend a specific escrow amount. Supervisor Adams seconded.

Motion to direct the township attorney to review the draft Ann Lake agreement and to advise whether an escrow is legally required, and if so, to recommend a specific dollar amount, was made by Supervisor Ellinger and seconded by Supervisor Adams. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING

Sherburne County Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance Updates – Information

Chair Felber reported that the Sherburne County Board had formally approved two new zoning designations affecting Orrock Township: a Hamlet district, located at the intersection of County Roads 4 and 5, and a new Shoreland Residential Zoning District, encompassing all of Ann Lake and the upper portion of Eagle Lake (with the lower portion of Eagle Lake falling within Big Lake Township). Chair Felber noted that Orrock is one of only three townships in Sherburne County with a hamlet designation, alongside Palmer and Santiago, each with distinct configurations. Proposed allowances for duplexes and townhomes in the Hamlet did not pass. The Chair noted the Hamlet designation opens opportunity along County Road 5 going forward.

Supervisor Keiderling reported that the zoning department had provided a laminated, parcel-level enlarged map of all of Orrock Township as a gift following the last meeting, which he will bring for the town hall's reference.

Supervisor Keiderling also noted that the longtime head of the Sherburne County Zoning Department is retiring, with 24-year veteran Mark Schneider taking over. This item was informational; no action was taken.

ROADS & SIGNS

Bahr Haunted Acres 2nd Driveway Request Update – Discussion/Action

Supervisor Owen reported that he and the Township Maintenance Supervisor Darryl Waletzko went on-site to assess the requested second driveway location for Bahr Haunted Acres. Rather than the originally proposed location, they recommended moving the driveway approximately 25 feet to avoid utility poles and utility lines. They verified the new location would not cause light intrusion into neighboring properties. The property owner agreed to the amended location.

Supervisor Keiderling added that the project had proceeded through the county zoning process, where the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval 6-1. A significant condition was formalized: traffic will flow in through the existing driveway and out through the new driveway, effectively creating a one-way circular flow. This change was welcomed by neighbors who had raised concerns about headlight intrusion and traffic congestion on the single-lane existing driveway. The matter now moves forward to the county. No board action was required at this meeting.

Tree Trimming – Discuss/Action

Supervisor Owen reported that he and the Township Maintenance Supervisor Darryl Waletzko identified tree trimming work to be completed along township roads in the vicinity of County Roads 75, 5, and 15, at a cost of \$24,999. A brief discussion occurred regarding a specific intersection at 232nd and 188th Avenue, with the Maintenance Supervisor indicating that area had been addressed approximately three years prior and that any needed touch-up work could be handled separately with township equipment.

Motion to approve tree trimming expenditure of \$24,999 was made by Supervisor Owen and seconded by Supervisor Adams. The motion carried.

253 1/2 Ave. Road Work

Township Engineer Kevin Kruger provided an update on the standing drainage issue on 253 ½ Avenue, Big Lake, MN, 55309. He noted there is no clearly designated right-of-way at the road's dead end, complicating a formal solution. It was noted that because the township has been plowing the full extent of the road, the township may have accepted the road by practice. The most immediate option discussed was grading and adding gravel to address the large standing puddle, but concern was raised about directing water onto an adjacent property, particularly one with a lower elevation and a French drain at the base of the driveway that may not have been maintained.

The Engineer recommended coordinating with the affected property owners to identify an acceptable interim solution — potentially a small swale with grading — and bringing any proposed solution back to the Board for approval. The longer-term fix will be incorporated into the future Ann Lake neighborhood road improvement project. No action was taken at this meeting.

West Eagle Lake Road Improvement Update

Township Engineer Kevin Kruger reported that the West Eagle Lake Road improvement project is expected to begin in two to three weeks, as the contractor was required to start after Labor Day. The project is expected to take approximately three and a half to four weeks, with a substantial completion date of October 15th. Finish work such as seeding will likely be completed in the fall but may not fully establish until spring. The Engineer also noted he would follow up with the contractor regarding the culverts that were temporarily repaired earlier in the year to ensure they are addressed in conjunction with the project.

2027 Road Projects – Discussion

Township Engineer Kevin Kruger suggested scheduling a road committee meeting to begin planning 2027 road projects. Supervisor Keiderling indicated he should be included given that Supervisor Adams, who holds institutional road knowledge, is not seeking re-election. Chair Felber reminded participants to coordinate through the Clerk to ensure proper public notice if a quorum of board members will be present.

BOARD BUSINESS/UPDATES – COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adams - Nothing to report.

Ellinger - Nothing to report.

Felber - The Chair reported attending the St. Cloud/Eagle Lake Night to Unite event, the Agent Orange Awareness Event in the City of Big Lake, and the Brinlee thank-you celebration in Zimmerman, an event organized by the family of an abducted child to thank community responders and raise awareness about child safety.

Owen – Nothing to report.

Keiderling - Supervisor Keiderling noted his planning and zoning updates were addressed earlier in the meeting.

TREASURER BUSINESS

Cash Control Statement and Investment Update – Approve

The Treasurer reported the following account balances: Checking — \$77,042.77; Debit card — \$2,001.82; Money Market — \$2,246,898.06; CD (renewed, 5-month term) \$250,000; 4M Fund — \$200,055.16. The Treasurer also requested authorization for a transfer of \$318.84 to the debit card and \$11,384 from the money market to checking.

Motion to approve the Cash Control Statement, Investment Update, and requested fund transfers was made by Supervisor Keiderling and seconded by Supervisor Owen. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Approve

The Treasurer presented the full treasurer's report reflecting total balances and ending balances by fund.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Supervisor Adams and seconded by Chair Felber. The motion carried.

Report of July Sherburne State Bank Securities Pledge Validation – Review

The Treasurer noted that the township's deposit overage is now covered following the execution of updated assignment agreements, resolving a discrepancy from the prior month. This item was for review only; no action was taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Felber announced the following upcoming events:

- A. The September Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:00 PM.
- B. The CSAH 16 Reconstruction Project Open House will be held September 28th from 4:30–6:30 PM at the Orrock Town Hall, hosted by the Sherburne County General Engineering Department.
- C. The 2026 Candidate Forum hosted by the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for September 24th. The Chair noted that some candidates — specifically county commissioners and state-level offices — may be moved to a separate forum date to be determined. Township, city, and school board candidates are expected to remain on the September 24th date.
- D. The General Election will be held Tuesday, November 3rd. The Chair noted this announcement will be repeated monthly until the election.

E. The MAT Annual Conference is scheduled for December 10–12, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Owen and seconded by Supervisor Keiderling. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Erickson
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted on this **23rd day of September 2026**, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Anne Felber, Chairperson

Attest: _____

Town Clerk