



ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2016 8:17PM

The Orrock Township Electorate met, for their Annual Meeting, on Tuesday March 8th, 2016. The meeting took place at the Orrock Town Hall, 26401 – 180th St. NW, Big Lake, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas at 8:17PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Electorate. Twenty (20) residents, the township's engineer and one observer were in attendance.

**CALL FOR A MODERATOR**

Clerk Kimberly-Maas called for nominations to elect the Annual Meeting Moderator.  
Eric Peterson moved for the nomination of Mike Meier as meeting moderator.  
Mr. Meier respectfully declined the nomination.

Corrie Silverberg moved for the nomination of Gary Goldsmith as meeting moderator. Mr. Goldsmith accepted the nomination.

No discussion was made by the Electorate and a vote was taken.  
Electorate Vote: Unanimous approval to install Gary Goldsmith as Moderator.  
Motion Prevails.

**CALL FOR MOTION TO APPROVE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

Motion/Second to Approve 2016 Annual Meeting Agenda by Brenda Kimberly-Maas/Corrie Silverberg.  
Electorate Vote: Unanimous approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting Agenda.  
Motion Prevails.

**CALL FOR MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH READING OF 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Motion/Second to dispense with the reading of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes by Bryan Adams/Laura Gibson  
Electorate Vote: Unanimous approval to dispense with the reading of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes.  
Motion Prevails.

**CALL FOR MOTION TO APPROVE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Clerk Kimberly-Maas noted one correction had been made after the distributed copies had been run.  
Motion/Second to Approve 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes as amended by Laura Gibson/Charles Gotzian.  
Electorate Vote: Unanimous approval of the amended 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes.  
Motion Prevails.

**BOARD OF AUDIT REPORT/FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Jones presented the Township's Financial Report and the Approved Board of Audit Report, for year ending 12/31/2016, to the Electorate. She advised the Electorate all disbursements and receipts were in a binder and available for their review. The Town Bank Account balance \$907,216.86 as of 12/41/2015.

Total Fund Disbursements in 2015:           General - \$78562.30  
  Road & Bridge - \$564488.09  
  Fire - \$101985.46

**BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Zimmerman Fire Report:** Corrie Silverberg presented information about the Zimmerman Fire Department (ZFD). The January meeting was rescheduled then cancelled and the March meeting was scheduled for March 15, 2016. The ZFD Chief, Ryan Maloney, reported to Laura Jones the Township fire bill may be slightly reduced in 2016, due to additional funding ZFD is receiving.

Big Lake Fire Report: Bob Hassett reported on the Big Lake Fire Department (BLFD). The main change to BLFD is the move of the Ambulance service to the old Auto Stop building, next to Holiday Station. No information on the fire bill was available, from Big Lake Township.

Sherburne County Planning & Zoning Liaison Report: Bryan Adams reported on Planning & Zoning Commission. The main issue is the installation of solar gardens and farms. The struggle is how to properly create ordinances and whether to issue CUPs or IUPs. Solar farms change hands frequently, as investors buy and sell them often. Currently, farms are being installed in Becker, Big Lake and Clear Lake Townships.

Road Report: Township engineer Mike Nielson of WSB and Associates, was present to report to the Electorate. He reviewed the Pavement Management Report, created for the town. He reported the Board made two categories for Town roads; "Collector" and "Local". Collector roads connect to a county road and carry a significant amount of traffic. The Board set target OCI standard for Residential Roads at 65 and Collector Roads at 70. Based on the revised OCI numbers, the annual dollar amount necessary to maintain the roads decreased from \$1.78Million to \$768K in 2015 dollars. He also told the audience the plan is based on typical usage, wear and tear. Unknown factors like weather, animal damage and the like would require additional repairs which are not factored in the plan. Currently there is the need of \$5.38Million of repairs, in the mill and overlay category. If the Town were to do this in a 10yr CIP the cost would be \$538K annually. Unfortunately, many of these roads won't last ten years before going to an OCI of 50, putting them in the monitor category. From there they would become a road that would either revert to dirt or need to be reconstructed. The solution is to be fairly aggressive the first few years, adding more value to the roads. Mike noted the price of bituminous installed is at record lows and advised the Board at the Annual Board of Audit Meeting, it would be beneficial for the Board to complete as many projects as feasible, in 2016 to take advantage of the low prices. Based on the need and location of roads, he advised the Board of a number of mill and overlay projects, for 2016 – 2018. Expected projects costs: 2016 - \$389K, 2017 - \$354K and 2018 - \$653K. The proposed Road & Bridge portion of the levy, has built in to it, \$152K for annual general maintenance (mowing, plowing, shouldering and trimming). The projected budget, has a 6% inflation rate built in to the numbers presented.

From the Electorate: Q: Would it be in the best interest of the Town to consider some of the 2017 projects for 2016 work?

A: If the Board wishes, there could be additional projects added to the list for 2016. The Board did suggest money already in our account should be used to take advantage of the low oil prices.

Q: How many tax paying households are in the township? A: There are approximately 1100.

Q: What is the average OCI rating in other municipalities, statewide? A: Pavement management systems are relatively new. But in Mike's experience most are in the 70 -80 range.

Laura Gibson commented she felt allowing the roads to revert to gravel is not an option, for the township.

Q: What has been done to reduce the wear on the roads and lower the cost burden to the Township, (heavy trucks on the roads, specifically Trash Hauling, additional taxation for those living on roads which are higher cost to maintain, road vacations)?

A: By resolution, a number of the roads were reduced to a 5-ton limit, from a 7-ton limit during normal restrictions, all roads are a 5-ton limit during weight restrictions. The Board has some roads on the short list for possible vacation, most of them are roads that run through Public lands. The Board is working with the USFWS and DNR to obtain grant money. Corrie Silverberg noted the Board had begun to research going to one waste hauling company and it will be one of the first items to be followed up on in 2016. Bob Hassett informed the audience one 40-ton truck is equivalent to 9000 passenger cars. The town Attorney did outline the process for us and it will take roughly a year to go through the process.

### RECESS TO READ UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Moderator Goldsmith called for a motion to recess the Annual Election for the purpose of reading the Annual Election results.

Motion/Second to recess and read Annual Election results by Bryan Adams/Bob Hassett

Electorate Vote: Unanimous approval to recess.

Motion Prevails.

Clerk Kimberly-Maas read the unofficial election results:

Supervisor "C"	Eric Peterson – 48 votes
	Jeff Jones (write in) – 1 vote
	Chad Killinger (write in) – 1 vote
	Garr Goldsmith (write in) – 1 vote
Supervisor "D"	Corrie Silverberg - 51 votes
	Chad Killinger (write in) – 1 vote
	Jerry Petersen (write in) – 1 vote
Clerk	Brenda Kimberly-Maas – 55 votes
Special Question:	YES - 36 votes
Move Elections to November	NO – 18 votes

Board of Canvass to meet following the Annual Meeting, to certify the results.

Moderator Goldsmith called the Annual Meeting back to order.

**PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED 2017 TAX LEVY**

Treasurer Laura Jones, presented the Board recommendation for the Levy 2017.

General Fund	\$ 80,000
Road and Bridge	\$ 650,000
Fire	\$ 80,000
Capital	0
TOTAL	\$ 810,000

Discussion: Gary Goldsmith commented to the sticker shock residents will have when the 2016 tax statements are received. He calculated his own property taxes will almost double. He reviewed the history of recent Levy amounts voted by the Electorate. In 2012 the minimum amount needed to receive gas tax money (\$165K). Because of this, the town is catching up and rebuilding funds. 2014 levy for 2015 payable \$385K; 2015 levy for 2016 payable \$680K. He noted the fluctuations made it difficult for property owners to personally budget. With the twenty year road plan in place, the annual increase will be minimal and drastic fluctuations should end. He is pleased the Board had the evaluation of the roads done and the plan created.

Brenda Kimberly-Maas shared information from Amy Rowan – County Tax Manager. Amy calculated what the 2016 TOTAL tax, on a homesteaded property valued at \$200,000 would have been if the 2016 payable Orrock levy had been set at \$830K. The TOTAL property tax would have been \$2507 year / \$208.31 month (an increase of \$103 year / \$8.58 month) more than the ACTUAL 2016 property tax amount – Levy set at \$680K .

Laura Gibson calculated the twenty year forecasted R&B portion of the levy will cost each household \$736/annually.

John Hopko stated he felt the additional amount (\$736/annually or \$61/month) of township tax that he would pay to increase the levy and continue to have good roads, is worth it.

The consensus of the Electorate is with the twenty year road management plan in place the, drastic fluctuations in the levy will end. Karel Lind asked for more specific information on the planned work. Mike N stated the roads were going to be milled and overlaid. Karel wondered if there would be reclaimed or just overlaid. He noted the base of our roads is not necessarily going to hold up for the amount of traffic currently on our roads. Mike N said each road will be evaluated by taking core samples to ensure the maintenance work lasts as long as possible.

Justin Davis asked for more information on how other heavy trucks affect the roads. The distribution of the weight on the trucks changes how the roads are affected. School busses weigh 19,500# - 26,000# and garbage trucks weigh 64,000#. His main concern was if the township were to go to a single waste hauler, would it be difficult to get different vendors if it didn't work out. Mike N stated the contracts are large enough, there shouldn't be a problem getting vendors to place bids. The other question was how much could be saved? Corrie noted instead of 64,000# 4-8 times a week versus 64,000# once a week. In the end the process is long and public meetings need to be held to allow residents voice concerns. The Board can't just implement the change without following the process set out by the law.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2017 PROPOSED TAX LEVY (MS 365.10)**

Brenda Kimberly-Maas moved to adopt the 2017 Levy amounts presented by Treasurer Jones and recommended by the Board at the Board of Audit Meeting, in the amounts of:

General Fund	\$ 80,000
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 650,000
Fire Fund	\$ 80,000
Capital Fund	\$ 0
Total Levy:	\$ 810,000

Motion Second: Bryan Adams

Brenda Davis expressed concern over the tax rate in Orrock being the second highest in the county. Her concern is the rate will continue to increase. Our rates increased to make up for the amount we didn't levy in 2013. And to maintain the roads at the level we want the levy needs to be increased. Mike N felt we are being more proactive than other townships with our road maintenance. And some townships assess landowners for roads. A question about payment in lieu in taxes was asked. Orrock received 3% of our R&B funds as PILT money, for the lands we are unable to develop. Brenda D echoed the feeling of a small annual increase to the levy is more manageable for her as a property owner.

John Hopko commented that most of the people who live in Orrock Township, chose to be here because of the green space. For him the extra tax burden is worth living where he does.

Mike N commented that he didn't want people to think previous Boards didn't plan well. They did, as our current road index indicates, as it is at an 81 or very good. Moving forward this and future Boards are also going to do their best to keep the taxes level on an annual basis and are planning the work and budgets accordingly to keep the roads in good condition. Brenda Kimberly-Maas commented previous Board understood what needed to be done and recommended appropriate levy amounts to keep the roads in good condition. However; the residents who voted on the levy, weren't educated and didn't understand why the levy and fund amounts were at the perceived high amounts. The constituents voted to reduce the levy amounts and the Board then had to make their budget meet the money available. She thanked everyone who participated, became educated on how the money is being allocated and why the levy amounts will increase. Charlie and Karel reiterated that the residents set the tax levy. Karel commented that one year there were four residents at the annual meeting to set the township's levy. He also noted the past yo-yo levies are making this current tax increases a bitter pill to take; but a necessary one to get the township back on an even keel.

Electorate Vote: Unanimous decision to adopt the 2017 Levy amounts presented by Treasurer Jones and recommended by the Board at the Board of Audit Meeting, in the amounts of:

General Fund	\$ 80,000
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 650,000
Fire Fund	\$ 80,000
Capital Fund	\$ 0
Total Levy:	\$810,000

Motion Prevails

### **CALL FOR BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Motion/Second directing the Board to set aside a budget to research and implement single trash collections system and to engage the lawyer and do the additional work necessary to move that process forward within eight months by:

Mike Meier/Bob Hassett

Electorate Vote: Unanimous approval.

Motion Prevails.

The Electorate would like to the Board have a progress report be made in August 2016.

Brenda Kimberly-Maas announced the purchase of new election equipment, which will be available for the August Primary elections. The township shared cost will be paid in four annual installments of approximately \$2600. The equipment will make the voting process much easier and reporting will be done faster.

Mike N asked what the balance of the R&B fund will be at the end of 2016, to help answer if the Board would be able to do more projects in 2016. Laura Jones said the ending balance will be \$295K and there is a balance in the Capital fund of \$139K, as well. John Hopko wondered if the labor to install bituminous is offsetting the reduction in oil. Mike N said in Stearns the cost they received for 2016 projects was at \$46/ton installed vs \$65/ton installed as was paid in the last couple of years. Karel noted he didn't know what the per ton cost was for projects in Sherburne, but a correspondence he just received had a large \$700K difference in the low and high bids received, for a Sherburne project. Mike N said that is the normal course of business; in that if you need work you bid low, if you're booked you bid high. Gary noted the Board has used their good judgment and has no concerns if the Board wished to look into having additional work performed. Bryan Adams stated the bid documents could always have the clause that some or all of the bid could be declined, so the Board could request bids and decide whether or not to complete any additional road work. No concerns were voiced over having the Board use the balance in the R&B for other road work, as they see fit.

Charlie Gotzian suggested the Electorate consider future levy increases to begin to save for another Town Hall, as we are growing out of our current space, the hall is not energy efficient and parking is limited. He advised the Electorate the Town could potentially acquire tax forfeited land for no cost, if it is used for municipal purposes, such as building a Town Hall or do major renovations to the existing building(s) and land. He was looking for direction from the Electorate. The Electorate felt the Board should pull a parcel from the auction block, if a suitable location became available. Bob Hassett questioned if the Board would need the authorization of the constituents to acquire land. Gary Goldsmith felt this would be a question for legal counsel.

Bob Hassett informed the audience of a Bill authored by Rep. Jim Newberger, which addresses the need for the DNR to contact local governments for pre-approval on any local projects. The Bill states there must be two meetings within 90 days of the work, as well as hold public hearings. It still needs to go through committee.

Bob also commented he has been in communication with the Department of Natural Resources. Bob informed the electorate that the DNR is looking to do a land swap between Anoka and Sherburne counties. This swap will affect Sand Dunes. The DNR assured Bob that land will not be sold to developers. The DNR is looking to possibly swap out School Trust land.

Charlie Gotzian stated he felt the Town should consider NOT participating in any future Joint Annual Clean Up Day event. He noted it costs the Town roughly \$6000 to participate in the event, each year. Brenda K-M noted the original reason for the event was to allow a day/place where residents could get rid of the items not normally taken by trash companies like appliances, mattresses, tires, etc. The portion paid by Orrock is only for our residents and participation in the event costs each household roughly \$6. Mike Meier suggested the waste hauler bid specs, include an annual pick of these types of garbage, curbside, in lieu of participation in the Clean Up Day. Brenda K-M, felt the Board should have some indication/direction from the residents whether they wished to continue to have the option of participating or not. Karel Lind added in the 1960's through the 1980's the town of Blaine had a single hauler and one day each year, when these types of items were picked up, curbside by the trash hauler. Karel added this directive to the motion previously made to progress to single service waste removal be modified to include the annual curbside pick of for this type of garbage.

Moderator Goldsmith called for Further Business from the Floor.  
No Further Business from the Floor.

**SET DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

Robert Kjellberg moved that the 2017 Annual Meeting be held on Township Tuesday 7:00PM.  
Second by Karel Lind.

The Electorate UNANIMOUSLY approved that the 2017 Annual Meeting be held on Township Tuesday at 7:00PM.  
Motion Prevails

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Moderator Goldsmith called for other Announcements.  
No additional announcements were made.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN OR RECESS THE ANNUAL MEETING**

For the benefit of residents new to the Annual Meeting, Moderator Goldsmith explained the difference between adjourning and recessing the Annual Meeting. He called for a motion to either adjourn or recess the Annual Meeting.

Brenda Kimberly-Maas Moved to RECESS the 2016 Annual Meeting until Wednesday August 31, 2016 at 6:00PM  
Second by Karel Lind.

Electorate Vote: Unanimous decision to RECESS the 2016 Annual Meeting until Wednesday August 31, 2016 at 6:00PM  
Motion Prevails:

Moderator Goldsmith declared the 2016 Annual Meeting in RECESS at 10:06PM on Tuesday March 8, 2016 and to reconvene on Wednesday August 31, 2016 at 6:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kimberly-Maas  
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017 by the Orrock Township Electorate.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annual Meeting Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk