



ORONOQUE VILLAGE TAX DISTRICT  
600 North Trail  
Stratford, Connecticut 06614  
(203) 377-5313

**Oronoque Village Tax District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
North Clubhouse, 600 North Trail, Stratford, Conn.  
Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Open Forum**

Dima Thompson (429A Narraganset Lane) spoke in favor of posting a Stop sign at the intersection of Commanche and Iroquois Lanes.

Linda Libertino (481A Commanche Lane) spoke against adding a Stop sign at the intersection of Commanche and Iroquois Lanes. She suggested that walking paths be put into place so that of pedestrians and drivers can co-exist safely.

Nancy Blagys (517A Iroquois Lane) spoke against adding signage at the intersection of Commanche and Iroquois Lanes. She suggested that walking paths be added.

Stan Lessler (491A Iroquois) spoke in favor of adding signage at the intersection of Commanche and Iroquois Lanes.

**I. Roll Call**

President Steve Brieger	Present
Vice President Bill Tanski	Present
Treasurer Jim Irwin	Present
Secretary Marguerite Dunigan	Present
Director Mel Holson	Present
Director Al Schlager	Present
Executive Manager John Staley	Present

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from January 12, 2016 were approved without changes.

#### **IV. President's Comments**

OVTD President Steve Brieger suggested changing the start time of the meetings to 7 p.m. A motion to begin meetings at 7 p.m. was made by Bill Tanski and seconded by Al Schlager. The motion passed with one abstention. He noted that all officers are up for re-election and will be considered during an OVTD Nominating Committee meeting on May 5 at 4 p.m.

Steve praised Executive Manager John Staley for his vision and his hard work during the past 3 years. He noted that the Renaissance Project and the purchase of the community buildings were extraordinary efforts that were spearheaded by John. He said that John has the ability to "see the larger picture and make things happen." Steve said that he does not think that John gets the credit that he deserves for all that he does on behalf of the community. Steve's statements were followed by applause from those in attendance.

#### **V. Treasurer's Report**

Jim Irwin read the OVTD Treasurer's Report for nine months ending March 31, 2016

##### Income

- (1) District taxes billed through March 31st were \$1,368,250.
- (2) Other income through March 31st is \$37,722.
- (3) Interest income through March 31st is \$2,631.
- (4) Total income is more than budgeted income by \$9,132 due mostly to owners with overpaid balances on their accounts who have moved and can't be found for refunds.

Other income also pertains to the 25-year promissory note from OVCA to OVTD. This was a result of using OVTD funds for the down payment on the purchase of the community buildings.

##### Expenses

Our March 31st actual expenses are less than our budgeted expenses by \$39,026. This is timing only.

**Reserves** Total monies in reserves are \$510,613 which are held in a money market account and a checking account with variable rates of interest as well as in two cds with interest of .20% and .30%. We used \$171,303 of reserve money to pay off the pool loan early. As voted on, we paid back \$34,264 this fiscal year to reserves and will continue to pay back \$34,264 a year for the next two fiscal years. We also used \$725,000 of reserve money for roads on north and south trail as well as parking lots of north and south community buildings

**Delinquencies** Under the OVTD collection policy, there was one unit with assessments 90 days or more past due for a total of \$2,387. A tax sale is schedule for this unit 6/7/16.

He noted that the Maintenance Department has purchased a new truck and a stainless steel snowplow. He also stated that a washing station has been built due to mandate by state and local authorities for pollution control. He said that the costs added up to about \$40,000.

## **VI. Executive Manager's Report**

John Staley noted that at one time, there was a deal in place with Oronoque Country Club in which OV made use of OCC's wash station in exchange for plowing OCC's parking lot.

## **VII. Old Business**

Al Schlager spoke about the Stratford Fire Department. An independent evaluation of Stratford's structural fire suppression capabilities has resulted in an upgrade of the town's rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The improved rating could mean reduced insurance costs paid by town residents and businesses.

Stratford's new Public Protection Classification (Classification (PPC) has been upgraded to Class 2. Al Schlager encouraged residents to contact their insurance representative to determine whether the improvement to the town's ISO fire rating will benefit them. This rating may help homeowners pay lower insurance fees.

Al Schlager also stated that the Maintenance Department is doing a great job.

Steve Brieger agreed.

## **VIII. New Business**

Steve Brieger spoke about the budget that was approved during the OVCA April meeting. A motion to move the budget forward was made by Mel Holson and seconded by Jim Irwin. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve noted that a motion was need to approve an engagement letter from attorney Adam Cohen. A motion to continue with Adam Cohen's services was made by Mel Holson and seconded by Bill Tanski. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Tanski gave a report on curbing. He stated that curbing is an annual project but the severity of the winter of 2014-2015 caused some curb repairs to be delayed into this year. He noted that many of the curbs have been repaired, especially in South Village. The remainder will probably be completed on or about May 1.

There were a total of at least 75 curbs damaged. That totals about 2500 linear feet.

Total costs for fiscal year 2016 curb repairs will total approx. \$33,800. That is up from \$24,500 in fiscal year 2015 due to the backlog from the winter of 2015.

As with other paving projects, Burns Construction is doing the curb repairs.

Steve Brieger said that a professional, Officer Joy, has looked at the intersection of Commanche and Iroquois. The bottom line is that the officer does not see a need for a stop sign. The officer did suggest a sign be placed that cautions drivers before the turn. He also suggested a sign that says "Caution Pedestrians" or indicate "blind curve," "slow down" or "caution."

Discussion followed regarding signage, pedestrians, cameras and speeding followed. Walking trails also were discussed as a viable option. Steve said that the suggestions will be taken under advisement. The topic will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made at the next meeting.

### **IX. Closing Forum**

No speakers

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Dunigan  
OVTD Secretary