

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, July 26, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Open Forum

There were no speakers at the Open Forum.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. 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

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 26, 2016 were approved without changes.

IV. President's Comments

OVTD President Steve Brieger spoke about a policy that was passed during the OVCA Board meeting regarding governing resident-sponsored events other than private parties,

He announced that Al Schlager has resigned from the OVTD Board. Al will continue his participation on Stratford Town committees and will continue to update the Board on Town

activities that are relevant to the OV community. Steve thanked Al for his service. The audience applauded for Al.

Steve then reported that Executive Manager John Staley announced his resignation during the OVCA Board meeting held on July 19. Steve said that John gave a very generous six-month notice to help fill the hole that will occur with John's absence. Steve said finding someone to fill John's shoes will be extraordinarily difficult. John is a rarity who has strengths in operations, construction, finance, management, maintenance, technology and human resources as well as the ability to build relationships with entities such as Town government, the police and fire departments, public works and other key sources.

Steve noted that John fills two key positions: John is both chief executive officer and chief operating officer at OV. Not only is John the guy who makes the trains run on time, he also is the person who made it possible to own the two clubhouses. John is a visionary who has the ability to see what the future ought to be and then work toward achieving it. John has been a pleasure to work with and Steve said he is grateful that John will remain as a resident at OV.

V. Treasurer's Report

Jim Irwin read the OVTD Treasurer's Report for nine months ending June 30, 2016.

Income

- (1) District taxes billed through June 30th were \$1,824,492.
- (2) Other income through June 30th is \$44,367.
- (3) Interest income through June 30th is \$3,262.
- (4) Total income is more than budgeted income by \$15,897 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 June 30th actual expenses are less than our budgeted expenses by \$81,041.

Year-End

At year-end, there is an estimated surplus of \$96,938. Further adjustments need to be made before this number is finalized. The final surplus I asked to be transferred to the Road Reserve.

Reserves Total monies in reserves are \$472,407 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

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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.

<u>Delinquencies</u> Under the OVTD collection policy, there was six units with assessments 90 days or more past due for a total of \$4,009.

He noted that it is sad that investments in CDs generate so little income.

He reported that there are new auditors in place. However, does not anticipate a major shift in the way things will be done.

The Tax District is ending the fiscal year with a significant surplus. Jim recommended that the surplus money be allocated to the road reserve so that in the spring, road reconstruction can get under way. He made a motion to that effect, which was seconded by Steve Brieger and approved unanimously.

Jim said he is looking for vehicles to increase the interest rate on our CDs. The problem is that the required governmental paperwork is too expensive for banks to accommodate Tax Districts such as OVTD.

OVTD is a governmental entity and requires too much paperwork which banks don't want to bother with.

VI. Executive Manager's Report

John Staley spoke about the resident photo ID badges and said that the compliance was incredible. There have been 1,200 badges made, to date.

He added that the flood zones are being revisited. John is working with Bob Koritko and working with a civil engineer to work on one section and it will go through FEMA. If there is success, then we will work on the other section.

An active road replacement program will get under way this fall, beginning on Comanche Lane.

The solar panel project at NCB is in progress. A title search is under way by the Green Bank. Once that is complete, it is expected that work will begin this fall.

VII. Old Business

Signage was revisited. One sample sign was shown, although two signs will be installed. One on Iroquois Lane, warning drivers to be aware of pedestrians. The other will be on Comanche Lane, warning walkers to be alert for oncoming cars.

VIII. New Business

Steve said that a committee has reviewed the routing of safe walking routes. A route for the north side is complete. There are two walking routes envisioned for the north: a yellow route that is roughly ³/₄ of a mile in length and a red route that is a little more than a mile long. The purpose of the routes is to take walkers off North Trail. Signs will be placed to mark the trails.

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No routes have been marked for the south side at this time because it is more difficult area in which to create walking routes. Also, the committee is waiting to determine the success of the North routes. The opening of the North route will be preceded by a substantial marketing/public relations program to stimulate interest.

The cost of creating and installing the signs is estimated to be \$750.

A motion to approve the expenditure for the walking routes was made by Al Schlager. Discussion followed that addressed speeders and methods to deter them, such as speed bumps and flashing electronic signage that marks the speed of drivers.

The motion passed unanimously. Steve said that this effort is a test. The Board will measure whether it is successful.

IX. Closing Forum

Karen Hahn (531B Narraganset) posed a question about the installation of the signage and whether the Maintenance Department will be involved.

Linda Libertino (481A Commanche) asked about the signs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Dunigan OVTD Secretary