



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

**Oronoque Village Tax District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2015**

**Opening Forum**

Gene Boone (498B Niantic Lane) spoke against moving expenses from the Tax District to the Condo Association.

Mark Sills (551B North Trail) thanked John Staley for reducing the lighting in the auditorium and voiced concern regarding the transference of expenses from the Tax District to the Condo Association.

Stan Lessler (491A Iroquois Lane) complimented the work on the community buildings and asked about the expenditures on the improvements.

**I. Roll Call**

President Bob Grosso	Present
Vice President Steve Brieger	Present
Treasurer Robert Macaluso	Present
Secretary Jim Irwin	Present
Jeanette Caron, Director	Present
Marguerite Dunigan, Director	Present
Diane Fried, Director,	Present
Mel Holson, Director	Present
Al Schlager, Director	Present
John Staley, Executive Manager	Present

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from October 28, 2014 were approved with one change.

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

OVTD President Bob Grosso said that the Renaissance Project was celebrated with a grand opening of the NCB, sponsored by SAC, and work on the SCB continues.

There have been changes with OVTD due to the transfer of the community buildings and recommendations by the attorneys. OVTD is now a pure municipality, responsible for the roads, removal of snow, etc. Community buildings, mini farms, pool and tennis are among what has been transferred to OVCA.

A meeting was held with Mayor Harkins in which taxes on the community buildings were discussed. Items also discussed were the emergency vehicles at the fire house on Oronoque Lane in which emergency vehicles will be on-site seven days a week. Oronoque Village is partnering with the town for possible OV grant opportunities. The Town-recommended sewage plan, as well as OV fire hydrants and associated responsibility between the town and Oronoque Village were also discussed.

The mayor has increased the police presences in the community with patrol cars cruising the Village during daytime and evening hours. OVTD continues to seek a new security company as there is dissatisfaction with the company that is currently in place.

#### **V. Treasurer's / Finance Committee Report**

OVTD Treasurer Bob Macaluso presented the Treasurer's Report for the three-month period ending March 31, 2015. He noted that, to date, storm expenses have exceeded budget; electricity was overspent due to renovation costs, and drainage was under budget.

##### **Income**

- (1) District taxes billed through March 31st were \$2,210,560.
- (2) Other income through March 31st is \$1,868.
- (3) Interest income through March 31st is \$2,139.
- (4) Total income is less than budgeted income by \$4,015 due mostly to less than anticipated interest income and reduced revenues from rental of clubhouses due to renovations.

##### **Expenses**

Our March 31st actual expenses are more than our budgeted expenses by \$17,450. This is due to timing.

**Reserves** Total monies in reserves are \$1,135,700, 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 three fiscal years.

**Delinquencies** Under the OVTD collection policy, there were four units with assessments 90 days or more past due for a total of \$3,700. Of these past due amounts, \$958 was received in 4/15.

He said the Finance Committee last met in October 2014 but committee members have been in contact and activity has been under way:

***Municipal Bonds:*** Maggie Dunigan and Victor Liss have explored the possibility of using the Tax District to float municipal bonds that fund acquisitions and rebuilding, etc. Because of the small amount of money involved and the cost to put the plan in place, it was decided that this is not a viable plan at this time.

***Solar Panels:*** Mel Holson, Bob Koritko and John Staley have investigated the use of solar power in the community buildings. The State provides a grant for the solar panels and their installation. The applications submitted are chosen through a lottery system. Oronoque Village submitted an application to the UI Small ZREC for each Community Building for a solar grant and, through the lottery, 600 North Trail was selected as a recipient.

***Road Repair:*** John Staley, Frank Forte, Bob Grosso, Jim Irwin and Bob Macaluso have put a plan in effect in which the roads and curbing were assessed. Decisions were made on what roads need to be repaired right away. North Trail and adjacent cul-de-sacs will be repaved first.

***Meeting with the Mayor:*** Bob thanked Fred Hyatt for his help in setting up the previously mentioned meeting with Mayor John Harkins. He said that results from that meeting are already in effect.

## **VI. OVTD Nominating Committee Report**

OVTD Nominating Committee Chairman Ray Vermette presented the slate of candidates to be considered by the OVTD Board for the coming year, beginning July 15, 2015. Three current directors have fulfilled their three-year terms: Bob Grosso, Bob Macaluso and Diane Fried. All residents were invited to submit their resumes to be considered for the positions. Each qualified candidate was interviewed. The recommended candidates to serve three-year terms as Directors are Robert Grosso, Lee Schlafer and William Tansky.

The candidates that are recommended to serve one-year terms are Bob Grosso as president, Steve Brieger as vice president, Jim Irwin as treasurer and Marguerite Dunigan as secretary.

He thanked all of the members of the Nominating Committee for their dedication and their work.

Bob Grosso noted that Diane Fried is stepping down from her service on the OVTD board. He also noted that Bob Macaluso will step down as treasurer. He thanked both for their service.

Bob also remarked that there were a number of qualified candidates who were not selected by the Nominating Committee. He asked John Staley to have the Business Office contact those candidates who were not selected and inquire whether they would be interested in having their names added to the OVTD ballot.

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

Executive Manager John Staley reported that the Algonquin Lane Flood Project has been approved and work will begin this spring. Funding for this project has been approved by the Town of Stratford.

He noted that he will continue to hold meetings with the mayor regarding the issue of the eight fire hydrants that OV pays for.

John noted that the budget has been presented to the finance committees as well as the OVCA Board. Increases will not affect next year's budget. OVCA will go up, OVTD payments will go down. An overview of the budget will be inserted in the May 1 issue of *The Villager* as well as a notice of a general meeting of unit owners on May 5. The rejection vote will take place on May 12. On May 26, the OVTD annual meeting will be held.

He discussed elements of the proposed budget and described the impact of the long, harsh winter on the budget on snow removal costs.

He said the only increase in this year's budget is the cable package, which will include internet services as well as television. He added that the assessment fee is ending.

He praised Diane Roche for her hard work in creating the budget.

A motion to approve the budget to be passed on to unit owners was made by Bob Macaluso and seconded by Jeanette Caron and approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

Jeanette Caron asked about the procedures for outsiders to use the community buildings and if those who hold private parties can get a one-day certificate of liability so that OVCA would be absolved from insurance claims.

John Staley said that the topic can be placed on the OVCA agenda.

### **House & Pool Committee**

House & Pool Committee Chairman Steve Brieger spoke on the Renaissance Project and said that work is basically completed. Work continues at SCB and has received positive comments from those who have seen the work there. He said that storage space issues are being resolved.

He said that the pool rules were approved by the OVCA Board during the April 28 meeting, with amendments. Amendments include the Business Office making exceptions, on a case by case basis, for those residents who cannot make it to the pool but have guests who would like to go to the pool, without being accompanied. The complaint process has been expanded and lap swimming in the heated pool is now available with the exception of the hours of noon to 5 p.m.

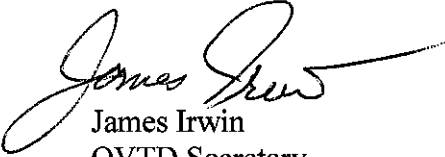
## **IX. Closing Forum**

Janet Clayman (627B Onandaga Lane) said that often there are not attendants at the pool when an incident occurs.

Stan Lessler (491A Iroquois Lane) asked if there would be negotiations with the Town of Stratford based on the acquisition of the community buildings. Bob Grosso asked that Stan bring the question up at the next meeting as things are in the process of being worked out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James Irwin  
OVTD Secretary