



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 25 – 7:00 p.m.

### **Open Forum**

Ken Block (303A Piute Lane) spoke about traffic procedures, upgrading the security vehicle, placing a uniformed mannequin in the guardhouse and the relationship between Oronoque Village and the Town of Stratford tax-dollar-wise.

Sue Pfannkuch (497B Iroquois Lane) asked about the recommended OVTD changes.

Larry Hartley (46B Buckskin Lane) spoke about parking, estate sales and security issues. He asked whether these issues are overseen by OVCA or OVTD.

Nancy Bartle (35B Algonquin) spoke about her concerns regarding estate sales.

Joanne Sutphen (431A North Trail) spoke about drivers that fail to stop at the stop sign on Hammerstone Lane.

Anne Andersen (316B South Trail) spoke about security concerns

Dennis Pernel (35C Algonquin Lane) voiced concerns about two-day estate sales.

Al Comen (409A Montauk Lane) asked about a schedule for secondary road repair.

Jeanette Caron (565A Pequot Lane) spoke about the need to pave Pequot Lane

Mark Sills (551B North Trail) spoke against the proposed reduction of the number of directors on the Tax District Board. He also asked about his previous request for information regarding the security vehicle and concerns about tag sales.

**I. Roll Call**

President Steve Brieger	Present
Vice President Bill Tanski	Present
Treasurer Jim Irwin	Present
Secretary Marguerite Dunigan	Present
Director Mel Holson	Absent

Also present, Director of Maintenance Mark Rhatigaan

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of January 2016 were approved without changes.

**IV. President's Comments**

Steve Brieger noted that Mark Rhatigan was in attendance to report on security.

He noted that the original charter has not been updated since 1979. Our attorney chose that, rather than editing, the existing charter should be rewritten and updated for clarification. Since 1979 there have been quite a few statutory changes governing tax districts.

Steve thanked Mark Sills for pointing out the need for this to be done. The original document did not have an ordinance on tag sales. The first report of a tag sale rule – which was discovered in the Business Office -- has a date of 1992. There is a search under way to see if additional ordinances are in existence.

He also noted that the OVTD function changed over time and many of its previous responsibilities are now under the jurisdiction of OVCA. The statutes state that the OVTD Board can only have 5 or 9 members, which is why 5 was chosen. The annual meeting of OVTD is May 23, at that meeting the election of Officers will take place.

He apologized to Mark Sills for not having the info he requested regarding the security vehicle. John Izzo had been working on the details of Mark's request, but it was not completed before John Izzo's departure.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Jim Irwin provided the report for the third quarter of the fiscal year. (Please see attached.)

He said that the accounting firm has requested an increase in payment. He proposed a motion that the OVTD Board approve an increase of \$300 to be paid to the accounting firm, Novotney & Novotney. He also suggested that the OVCA and OVTD treasurers and the Executive Director meet with the accountants to specify why an increase is being requested.

However, a vote could not take place because there was not a quorum.

#### **VI. Director Maintenance Report**

Mark Rhatigan spoke about security in John Staley's absence . John and Mark have had discussions with the Stratford Police regarding security and patrolling of the community. There have been time changes for when patrols occur as suggested by the Police Department. There will be clubhouse walk-throughs and interest in the pool areas and overnight parking violations.

In response to complaints regarding solicitors; there was a solicitor who was reported as knocking on the doors of three specific residents. It was discovered that the it was a legitimate surveying company that was conducting research.

Steve noted that the costs of outside security companies may be looked at.

#### **VII. Nominating Committee**

Nominating Committee Chair Harriet Liss thanked Linda Arvers for all of her help. She also thanked the members of the committee: Sheila Sloves, Martin Wolf, Judy Rabkin, Ann Gallo, Bob Macaluso, Jane Smiley, Myra Adler and Merrilees Leehumis.

The recommended slate for the upcoming election is President Steve Brieger, VP Maggie Dunigan, Secretary Bill Tanski and Treasurer Jim Irwin. Those who would like to be added to the ballot should contact Linda Arvers.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

A. Bill Tanski spoke about the walking trails that were established last fall. He said that a year ago, OVTD looked into concerns regarding a blind curve on Iroquois Lane ... that resulted in the posting of caution signs. At that time, concerns about walkers were investigated. Two safe walking trails have been established. There is a red and a yellow route. This may lead to the establishing routes on the South side.

A walking group has been established that meets weekly on Thursdays at 8 a.m. to make use of the new trails. He invited people to join the group and to walk safely.

B. Curbing was addressed by Mark Rhatigan. A rough estimate of 1800 linear feet needs to be replaced or repaired on both sides of the village. About 40 percent of the repairs will take place; driveways and walkways will be repaired in accordance with budget allocations. A new type of curbing, called ramp curbing, will be tested this year to replace the missing curb areas caused by plowing. Work is expected to begin in mid-May.

C. Steve discussed the SCB back parking lot. A decision to remove the barrier and create a walking path was decided at a previous meeting. Now, there is discussion about adding a speed bump as a safety measure. However, there is a legal requirement that states that a sign has to be posted to warn that a speed bump exists and the sign cannot be posted less than 100 feet from the speed bump.

Discussion ensued. The consensus of the board was to put up the barrier during pool season only. In addition, a Stop sign facing the parking lot should be added.

### **Closing Forum**

Janet Clayman (67B Onondaga) spoke about speeding on Onondaga and suggested posting signs that indicate where walking trails are located.

Jeanette Caron questioned why the police are paid to provide security.

Lee Shlafer (136A Bison Lane) spoke on behalf of Renee Zinn asked that the president's comments be published in *The Villager*. She also spoke about the barrier and said it should go up for the summer. She asked about the new charter and its implication regarding the new charter and the TD taking on recreational acquisition.

Judy Rabkin( 219A Agawam) responded to the question. She said that the attorney advised that the option be kept open. The reason why the facilities were transferred to OVCA was to get an exemption. If the facilities are overseen by the Tax District, they would have to be open to the public. If there is an audit, there is a possibility that the exemption would be lost. Judy said her suggestion is to put a sticker on the current charter that points out why the facilities were under OVCA jurisdiction and should not be changed.

Ray Vermette (388A Sequoia Lane) spoke about the language of the proposed new charter.

Steve Brieger said Attorney Adam Cohen will be at the May 3 meeting to address questions regarding the proposed changes to the charter.

Mark Sills spoke about the proposed changes to the charter.

Ann Anderson spoke about security.

Mark Rhatigan noted that in talks with the police, it was stated that break-ins occur while people are out for an hour. Someone in the Village may be watching the units and keeping track of when residents leave.

Dwayne Anderson (317B South Trail) asked about the solicitor and whether the person had checked in with the Business Office. Mark Rhatigan said the person had not checked in and was instructed to do so in the future.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Bill Tanski  
OVTD Secretary