

**Ortonville Community Historical Society**  
**Minutes for General Membership Meeting Feb 10, 2026 6:00pm**  
**Old Mill Museum - 366 Mill Street - Ortonville, MI 48462**

*“The Ortonville Community Historical Society shall work with local government, businesses, organizations and citizens of all ages to research, collect and safeguard our local heritage through living displays and authentic educational experiences.”*

1. Call to Order -Alan
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Guests / New Members: Frank Slingland, Susan Wells Pitser (Lifetime member)
4. Attendance / Sign-in: Alan A, Tina A, Carol E, Dennis H, Sandy M, Mary K, John Fross, Tom R, Grace G, Kathy T, Ken B
5. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Sandy M, second by Mary K -approved
6. Approval of Minutes, December Gen. Membership Meeting: Motion to approve by Mary K, second by Tom R - approved
7. Treasurer’s Report: Motion to accept and file by Kathy T, second by Sandy M - approved
8. Executive Officer Reports
  - a. President – Alan reported on the status of the ‘vacating the village’ issue that was discussed at the last OCHS Board Meeting. He suggested we stay true to our strategic plan which has a goal of building community value and stay neutral in regards to the issue. He stated that it should not matter who owns the deed to the building. He also reported that the Board approved the purchase of humidifiers and he has purchased three. He remarked that he got a very good deal considering he paid \$200 each. They will be placed in the basement, the military room and the main room. He also reported that he had received a note that Kathy Gauthier is stepping down as a trustee for health reasons. Finally, he noted that annual dues are due in March.
  - b. Vice President -- Mari Ann -absent
  - c. Secretary – Carol – no report
  - d. Treasurer
9. Trustee Reports
  - Kathy G. - absent
  - Kathy T. – nothing to report
  - Ken – reported that his presentation on the DUR at the Library was very well attended
  - Sandy – nothing to report
10. Project Reports
  - a. School – Alan reported that clean-up has begun in the school and more work will be done. September will mark the 30th anniversary of the moving of the school. He reported that the organs in the school don’t play and no one seems to know where they came from. He suggested that perhaps they can be moved out of the school. He also reported that the desks are on rails so they are almost impossible to move. Therefore, he will be removing the rails so they can be moved more easily. John Fross has offered to help with this project. Finally, Tom R and Alan will be trying to get the bell to ring again.
  - b. Gift shop – The Board agreed to move the gift shop area to the other counter. Tina reported that the Gift Shop revenue between October and the end of the year was over \$2000. She also suggested we consider more

Ortonville souvenir gifts with our logo. Members of the group also offered suggestions such as photos and/or postcards of "Old Ortonville."

- c. America 250 Celebration – The Jeremiah Clark Chapter of the SAR is making a poster set titled "Road to Revolution" which will be on display at the Old Mill beginning on May 16. They will also be including flags of the Revolution (handout was in Agenda packet). John Foss added that he will be providing uniforms for display. Also we will be having a Declaration of Independence that Old Mill Museum visitors will be able to sign.

#### 11. Event Reports – Past

- a. Winter Banquet Jan 13
- b. Merry Thriftmas Gift Shop

#### 12. Event Reports - Future

- a. May 2 -Vintage Sale
- b. May 16 - Road to Independence Kickoff event
- c. Late May – 2nd Grade visit – Alan will call Judy Miracle and inquire whether or not she would be interested in running this program again this year
- d. Aug 1& 2 - Art at the Mill – This year it will be a two-day event.
- e. Aug 7 – Library 100th Anniversary event (at Library) – This will be a family event and we will be setting up our old-fashioned games
- f. Sept 14-18 (week of) – Orion Historical Society visit (potential) - A date of September 18 has been set.

#### 13. Unfinished Business

- a. Historical Information Requests

#### 14. New Business

- a. Election for Treasurer

#### 15. Roundtable/Announcements –

- Grace is looking for other weavers. She will help train them. She also reported that she took 17 rows off the loom and Judy is sewing the rugs.
- Dennis reported that the VFW will be picking up the wreaths at the cemetery on March 21
- Mary K reported that the cleaning people will not be coming this week due to the extreme cold
- Frank reported that his mother put photos on old boards from the chicken coop his mother had used as a child. He suggested that perhaps old photos of Ortonville could be displayed on boards in a similar fashion.
- John F reported that he has two muskets for a display case but wants to make sure the cases can be locked.
- Susan Wells reported that she will be working with Tina on the gift shop.
- Carol E reported that she will be doing a presentation at the Library on March 3 titled "Furs, Forts and a Raid by the Spanish: A Glimpse at 'Michigan' during the Revolution.

#### 16. Adjourn – motion to adjourn by Ken, second by Dennis - approved

*Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm at the Old Mill Museum.*