

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present were Supervisors: Chuck Voss, Greg Hull, and Chris Jaeger; Clerk Alison Oftedah; Treasurer Jamie Pellman; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius, and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None.

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:

None.

ROAD & SAFETY:

Road Report – Reineccius reported that decals were applied to the new truck, and it was used last week to haul for the salt-sand supply. The salt-sand shed is now three quarters full. Reineccius said that we have plenty, but noted that with two trucks sanding, a bit more might be used this coming winter. We also have some chip rock ready for use on ice.

Gravel Pit – Voss complimented Reineccius and Anderson’s work on this project and said that the Hearing went well. The Clerks reported that the application has been approved pending Lake County Board of Commissioners final approval. A wetlands application with MPCA may be required. Reineccius reported that he learned more about the history of our pit from Neil Udenberg (Lake County Highway Department). Udenberg said we could borrow the county’s screen for sifting material. Reineccius said Udenberg brought up a concern regarding legal easement for use of the Alger Spur, but it has been used by private haulers, County haulers and now by us for many years. Reineccius also discussed the overburden pile at the pit site. He thinks it may contain good black dirt, but it must be checked by Lake County Environmental Services first. He asked the Board about renting a bulldozer from either Zeigler or a local contractor. The Board suggested Reineccius make the decision that will be most economical.

Part-Time On-Call Employee – Reineccius explained that there are a couple weekends when he will be out of state for dogsled races this winter. He would like to hire an On-Call Operator for plowing in case Thompson might have a pre-scheduled vacation or illness during one of these periods. Reineccius also discussed on-call backup for sewer but said that a different type of person might be needed for that. The Board agreed that having someone lined up for these periods would be good. Motion Hull, second Voss to authorize posting for a Part-Time On-Call Equipment Operator. Carried unanimously.

Disaster Preparation – Reineccius was able to get free batteries for the old Motorola radios thanks to the Silver Bay Fire Department, and so the radios are again ready to go. The damage reporting GIS app has been installed on Reineccius, and Oftedah’s phones. Thompson’s will be installed when he is back from vacation. Reineccius discussed creation of a rotation calendar to be on file to provide information on who is primary each weekend.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

Reineccius reported that all frost blankets were installed on sewer grinder stations and the system is ready for winter.

Motion Hull, second Jaeger to accept the October Wastewater Operator’s Report (included below). Carried unanimously.

Wastewater Operator’s Report – October 11, 2022

Influent	2021	2022
January	0.4689 million gallons	0.4204 million gallons
February	0.4855 million gallons	0.4570 million gallons
March	0.7586 million gallons	0.6321 million gallons

April	0.6806 million gallons	0.8675 million gallons
May	0.6131 million gallons	0.8232 million gallons
June	0.8192 million gallons	0.8657 million gallons
July	1.1059 million gallons	0.9316 million gallons
August	0.9969 million gallons	0.8870 million gallons
September	0.8284 million gallons	estimate 0.8000 million gallons
October	0.7134 million gallons	
November	0.5272 million gallons	
<u>December</u>	<u>0.4614 million gallons</u>	
Total	8.1410 million gallons	

In addition, there were 0.0533 million gallons of trucked in wastewater during July.

Effluent	2021	2022
May – Discharged	2.859 million gallons of water	3.018 million gallons irrigated
June – Discharged	3.19 million gallons of water	2.986 million gallons irrigated
July – Discharged	3.246 million gallons of water	4.563 million gallons irrigated
August - Discharged	2.743 million gallons of water	2.218 million gallons irrigated
September - Discharged	0.923 million gallons of water	2.984 million gallons irrigated
<u>October - Discharged</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1.147 million gallons irrigated</u>
Total for year-	12.961 million gallons	16.916 million gallons irrigated

Current Operations

We had only a couple pump replacements this past month for grinder stations. Worn out stators in the pumps, which is a low-cost fix.

We are still waiting for the repaired lift station pump to be installed. Wik Waiban Innini will be doing that at the same time we do the pipe replacement of the pipe from pump station to the check valve chamber. This struggle with “supply chain” is holding up both the pump repair and the pipe replacement.

Long property has been connected and is operational. Homeowner is moved in. There will be some work to do when settling has occurred and Jody has spoken with homeowner regarding that. Need to finalize Long account when numbers are in.

At this point in time, we are in good shape with replacement pumps.

Rostvold, Christensen and Gerard properties are all on hold with no activity taking place. I have not spoken with any of them regarding future plans.

Sampling has been done as required and all reports submitted to MPCA.

Pending Maintenance Items

Cut out between pump chambers on duplex stations

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Hoops, Wastewater Operator

New Sewer Installs – The utility easement for Mike Long is ready to be signed, and the Longs will be stopping by Monday to do so. A call was received from a contractor working on the Mark Gerard site. Thompson had answered some questions for them. Next steps for that site include payment of the installation estimate.

STEWART RIVER SEWER:

Voss reported hearing nothing new on this project.

REVIEW MINUTES:

Motion Voss, second Hull to accept with one correction, the September 20th Regular Meeting minutes. Motion Hull, second Voss to accept as presented the October 11th Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes. All motions carried unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Pellman as follows: TOSC checking: \$53,228.67 and TOSC savings: \$673,853.49 for a total of \$727,082.16. Outstanding checks totaled \$2,439.16 for a CTAS balance: \$724,643.00. Hull questioned the disbursement total for September and the Clerk reported that it included about \$27,000 for payment of the Building/Loader loan. Motion Voss, second Hull to accept the September Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion Voss, second Jaeger to authorize the requested transfer of \$37,000 from savings to checking. Both motions carried unanimously.

READING OF THE BILLS:

The current month’s bills were read: claims 9535-9558, totaling \$19,356.32, and payrolls through October 21st, 2022. Motion Voss, second Jaeger, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board considered the following:

- Email from Melissa McIntyre regarding gravel pit and the findings and Conditions set by the Planning Commission. Conditions include cleaning up the site, consulting on use of overburden piles, and complying with Wetlands regulations.
- Email from Minnesota Association of Townships regarding MAT feedback about annexation issues.
- Email from U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration now accepting applications for the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Discretionary Grant Program.
- Email from Jennifer Hansen from Park State Bank regarding bank pledge reports.
- Eight signed Seasonal Storage Agreements.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cemetery Dispute – The Clerk reported that a judge had ruled today that the Alvin Fjeran plots transfer to Coral McMahon because she is the oldest child. McMahon’s monument for their son will be installed by Cavallins on Friday, and the burial will take place on Monday.

Burlington Road Two Harbors & Superior Shores Agreement – No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk Training – Motion Voss, second Hull to authorize Anderson and Oftedahl to attend MAT Clerk Training in Cotton, Minnesota and to reimburse all necessarily and actually incurred expenses. Carried unanimously.

Additional Election Judge Approval – Motion Jaeger, second Voss to approve Mary Londborg as Election Judge for this fall’s Mid-Term General Election. Carried unanimously.

Snowplow Policy 2022 – After discussion, two changes were made to section number 5. The order of roads plowed with the second truck was altered slightly and a sentence was changed to allow the Operations Manager to adjust the order of plowing at his discretion based on snowfall. Motion Hull, second Voss to approve the modified version (included below) which was signed at the meeting. Carried Unanimously.

**TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
SNOWPLOW POLICY**

1. Introduction

The Town of Silver Creek believes that it is in the best interest of the residents of the township to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on town roads. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The town will provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The town will use town employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service.

The Township does not assure a completely bare road. Users of the road system are reminded to exercise caution, slow down, and drive with care. The legal speed limit may not be possible at all times.

2. When will the town start snow or ice control operation?

The Town Operations & Facility Manager will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- a. snow accumulation of three inches or more,
- b. drifting of snow that causes problems for travel,
- c. icy conditions which seriously affect travel,
- d. time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently, snowplowing operations may not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than three inches.

3. How snow will be plowed

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. Generally, the clearing of roads will consist of three phases: making the road passable, widening, and sanding, and cleaning up. The discharge shall go onto the adjoining right-of-way areas of the town road. In time of extreme snowfall, town roads will not always immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

4. Snow Removal

The Town Operations & Facilities Manager will determine when snow will be removed by truck from the area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snow plowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel and budget availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located so as to minimize environmental problems.

5. Priorities and schedule for which roads will be plowed

The order in which town roads are plowed are generally based on the most efficient manner of getting to the roads based on distance and mileage, snow conditions, road function, traffic volume and importance to the welfare of the community. Recognizing a variety of conditions and situations, the Operations Manager at his discretion may alter the order in which roads are plowed. Whenever possible, two snowplows will be run as needed. One plow will remove snow from the following roads in generally the following order:

1. Alder Road
2. Trillium Road
3. Grimmer Road
4. Press Camp Road
5. Cedar Road
6. Burlington Road
7. Flood Bay Road
8. Aspen Road
9. Loop Road
10. Silver Creek Road
11. Cliff Point Road
12. Big Point Road
13. Valhalla Road

The other plow will remove snow from the following roads generally in the following order:

1. Town Road
2. West Castle Danger Road
3. Landfill Road
4. East Castle Danger Road
5. Clark Road
6. Dogwood Road
7. Balsam Road
8. East Alger Grade

9. Red Maple Lane
10. 32A (being minimum maintenance this road is not plowed except for first 25 feet or so to provide parking for cabin owners)

The town has an agreement with Lake County wherein Lake County will plow Silver Creek Town Roads - Beaver Dam Road and Marble Lake Road, and Town of Silver Creek will plow Lake County Roads - #106 and Bunker Hill Road.

6. Work schedule for snowplow operators

Snowplow operators will work 10-hour shifts. Because of budget and safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a 12-hour shift in any 16-hour period.

Operators will take a 15-minute break every two hours with a half-hour meal break after four hours. After a 12-hour day, the operators will be replaced if additional qualified personnel are available.

7. Weather conditions

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of township employees and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include severe cold, significant winds and limited visibility.

8. Use of sand, salt and other chemicals

The township will use sand, salt, and other chemicals (if at all) when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The township is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

9. Mailboxes and fences

Mailboxes and fences damaged during snow removal will be evaluated case by case. Only those mailboxes and fences that were properly located and installed in accordance with state laws, highway regulations or Minnesota Department of Transportation recommendations which were damaged by actual contact with township equipment will be repaired at township expense.

Date _____

Chairman Chuck Voss

Supervisor Greg Hull

Supervisor Chris Jaeger

PENDING BUSINESS:

Seasonal Storage – Reineccius reported that all items were placed into storage. Everyone has paid, but one contract remains to be signed.

Election – The Clerk discussed the plans to use the garage bay for this November's Mid-Term Election and asked for any objections. There were none.

There being no further business, motion Voss, second Jaeger to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday November 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk