

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 11, 2024

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday June 11, 2024, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Chuck Voss, Greg Hull and Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Tom Opfer

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

Constituent Concerns

None

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported that the Dodge pickup at Duluth Dodge needs approximately \$2,500 after it turned out that someone mistakenly put DEF in the fuel tank. Several parts must be replaced to keep the warranty coverage. He said the tractor has broken down and the issue is either the transmission or the rear end. It is being towed to Lulich Implement in Mason, WI for repairs. He purchased a new Tamper from the Foreman's Tools budget. He said Thompson has been doing a great job with the road grading.

Skid steer Repair – Reineccius reported that there are no problems with the skid steer right now.

Road Groomer – After discussion, the Board declined to move forward on purchase of the road groomer at this time. The cost for the widest one was \$25,000.

New mold board and bits for Grader – After discussion based upon cost and Thompson's request to replace these parts, motion Voss, second Krech to authorize this work. Motion carried unanimously.

Cemetery & Hall – Reineccius reported purchase of trees for the cemetery. A burial was completed – he opened the grave Friday, and had Larsen close it on Saturday. Reineccius purchased 6 new tables for the Historic Town Hall.

General Sewer Operations

Reineccius reported that things were going very well. Water levels were good, and he has repaired the irrigation line that was not working last fall. He said that he has purchased herbicide for around the pond that will last 3 years. He has not applied it yet. He has been in communication with MPCA to ensure that they are happy with operations.

Lift Station Repairs – A pump had to be replaced in Lift Station 1 last week. The grease problem is back. The septage hauler believes that the issue may be coming from Grand Superior rather than from the Rustic Restaurant.

2 New Connections – These are not done. Reineccius is waiting on the electrician. Because of potential service issues down the road, he prefers to use a local electrician.

MPCA Annual Compliance 2023 – A report was received that the DMR for April 2023 was not submitted. The MPCA letter was not clear on whether this needs to be addressed – Mike Hoops was Operator at that point.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that he has not heard anything from Lake County regarding the Financial Agreement. Oftedahl reported that a letter was received from Bollig stating that this year's Bonding bill never got passed but that they would like the Town to adopt a resolution for use in applying for state bonding next year.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Letter from City of Two Harbors with fire invoice due now for last year's fire and emergency response service totaling \$35,545.29. The fire fund was viewed and next year's levied amount was discussed.

- Letter from MN State Demographer with Silver Creek Population estimate of last year, dropped to 1192 after being estimated at 1262 the year prior. Population is used for Town Aid tax allocations.
- Email from Laura Ostlie at Bollig Engineering stating that it is doubtful there will be any special session for state bonding this year and asking the Town to do a resolution for a bonding request in spring of 2025.
- Email from Anna McCloskey of Senator Tina Smith's office confirming that the Stewart River project has been submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Email from John Acheson asking whether the Town wished to pursue insurance quotes from them this year. The MATIT policy is renewed on 7/1.
- New Driveway Access Permit granted to Mike Braun.
- Certificate of appointment of Jamie Pellman to Deputy Treasurer by Shelly Peterson.
- Attorney advice stating that an appointee to a vacancy in an elected position is still considered elected in nature for purposes of PERA or HR issues.
- Email from Deb Provence of MATIT stating that maintenance is not a covered towing option so therefore there will not be insurance coverage for the towing of the Dodge down to Duluth after its breakdown.
- MAY MAT Newsletter.
- Signed Septage Dumping contract from Whitebird Rentals LLC.
- 2 signed Hall Rental Agreements.
- Letter drafted by Deputy Clerk Anderson with a quote for Dust Control at GFSP Campground.
- MAT membership cards for elected officials were passed around.
- 2 Lake County Hearing notices were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance Quote – Not discussed.

Historic Hall – Supervisor Krech said he talked to Sharon Kleive but hasn't had a lot of time to work on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for Park State Bank Signatories – The draft resolution to add new Treasurer Shelly Peterson was viewed and will be voted on next week.

Resolution for US Bank Signatories – This draft resolution will also be voted on next week.

Cemetery Gate Signs – Oftedahl discussed replacement of old gate signs at the cemetery that stated were in conflict with the regulations. Possible wording and the potential need for signs was discussed. Oftedahl and Anderson did not have pricing but are planning to use recycled road signs with new decals.

PENDING BUSINESS

Pavilion Rental for Republican Banquet – Tables and chairs will need to be moved into the Pavilion on Thursday for their event.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk