

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
May 14, 2024

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday May 14th 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 Oftedah; Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson, Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius, Operations Assistant Paul Thompson, and Treasurer Jamie Pellman.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Judy Fleischer (attended 6:30-7), Shelly Peterson (attended 7-7:30).

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns

Joe Gross stopped by the office to request repair of three culverts on Dogwood. Thompson went out to take a look. One of the culverts needs to be replaced the others may just need to be cleared out.

Laura Kleive asked the Deputy Clerk if screen curtain for the man door at the Pavilion could be installed. After discussion, it was agreed that an actual screen door would be better.

Bob Jamison called the office to request his grinder station frost blanket be picked up. Thompson said that this has been completed.

New Business

At this point in the meeting the first Treasurer candidate was interviewed. It was explained that this is a temporary appointment running until next March's election when the Treasurer is again on the ballot.

Treasurer Candidate Judy Fleischer – Fleischer introduced herself and went through her background including serving on the Board as a Supervisor, and years of banking experience. Hull had recruited her and recommended her as a good candidate. Fleischer left the meeting after her interview.

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported that road bans were still on. He said he was almost done with repairing and painting the mower although there were still some leaks. Trucks are ready for summer. Thompson graded last weekend, and the Town Road bridge was inspected. The load rating is waiting on LHB.

Road Tour – As Reineccius had missed the Road Tour due to illness, Thompson reported that several road areas need to be lifted. There were differing opinions about class five. The group discussed whether 4000 yards is enough for this year. Pit run is needed. Pending vehicle repairs include the Dodge recall, and the International recall, both waiting on parts, and the skid steer still has some issues. Reineccius believes he can repair the skid steer – the Board authorized having a vendor repair it if there is a shortage of time right now. Thompson requested new bits and bit-blade for the grader. The Board requested he come back with pricing.

Road Groom – This vendor will be bringing a pull-behind road grader up for testing and demo. Voss stated that Reineccius and Thompson need to both be able to see it.

Well Pump – Reineccius said the Town's well pump was running non-stop and may indicate either a water leak or that the system is waterlogged. He is monitoring it.

General Sewer Operations

Operator Reineccius reported that alum and algaecide have been applied but that our MPCA permit doesn't require it and he is looking into going without these chemicals. He will be using his wheeler to check dripper lines and beginning to irrigate. Voss asked if the area with damaged dripper lines from last fall were repaired and Reineccius said it is being bypassed.

New Installations – Steve Green will be coming up to set the panels.

Sewer Easements – Reineccius worked with Tofte to complete the surveys. Oftedah sent the surveys to the attorney.

Treasurer Candidate Shelly Peterson – Peterson introduced herself and went through her background including her degree in bookkeeping and her current bookkeeping business. Pellman had recommended her for the position. Peterson left after her interview.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that he has no news from Bollig Engineering. Voss is gathering some letters of support to go with the application for federal congressionally directed spending.

Financial Agreement with Lake County – A response to Silver Creek’s request for a payment extension has not yet been received.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Email from Bollig requesting letters of support for the Stewart River Project’s application for congressionally directed spending.
- Survey drawings of sewer lines at Gerard and Rostvold properties from Tofte were received.
- Email from MAT trainer stating that the Clerk does not have authority to vote on appointment of Treasurer replacement. There will be only two supervisors making the appointment due to Hull’s absence next week.
- Information from Lake County on tax forfeited properties in Silver Creek. The Board did not have interest in obtaining any of these properties for the Township.
- Information from Lake County on Sealed Bid Timber Auction.
- Email from Jason DiPiazza regarding the Town Road bridge load rating. The MnDOT State Aid Bridge Office has awarded the SHV load rating contract to LHB. The letter did not include the date that they would look at the bridge.
- Cemetery request and receipts for burial of Irene Hall.
- Notice of the Town Law Review training from Minnesota Association of Townships.
- MAT April Newsletter.
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement for a wedding in September.
- Lake County Notice of Decision on Maji ya Chai Land Sanctuary’s conditional use application.
- Lake County notice of Public Hearing for vacation rental.

OLD BUSINESS

Historic Hall – CLP replaced a blown fuse on the power pole over near the cemetery when it was discovered last week that there was no power there.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Position – The Board discussed the two candidates who both appeared to be qualified. A vote to appoint will be taken next Tuesday.

Memorial Day – Anderson reported that Hoops will put out the flags. Hull noted that Hoops has been doing this service for more than 20 years and that a thank-you in the newsletter is a good idea. Wycoff is mowing the cemetery this week in preparation.

Newsletter – The newsletter is only about half done – additional story ideas were discussed.

PENDING BUSINESS

Supervisor Absences – Hull leaves for Uganda later this week and returns June 2. Voss leaves May 22nd and returns June 7th. Krech will be in charge between May 22nd and June 2.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, May 21st, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk