

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JULY 9, 2024

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday July 9, 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: None

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Constituent Concerns**

Schlangen & Press Camp Road –Oftedahl was not able to relay many details, other than Thompson responded to a call about a sink hole on Press Camp and made a temporary repair. Reineccius said that Press Camp would have to be closed to fully fix the problem.

Holappa Bike Incident and Orange Truck – Hull received a call that an orange dump truck going about 70 was passing a bike very closely. The group noted that the Town isn't the only entity with orange trucks – Lake County and also a private hauler both have them. Reineccius did not believe that Larsen who was hauling would have been going that fast.

Arndt Request for Email – Voss reported that Mr. Arndt is requesting a permission letter on moving his shed. Voss met with Christine McCarthy who said a letter from us is not needed.

### **Road and Safety**

Road Report – Reineccius reported that potholes on Alger near Highway 2 were worked on today.

Beaver Dam at Alger Grade Culvert – Hull explained he had called Thompson in on the weekend to deal with water over the road at the plugged culvert. Reineccius reported that Thompson had cleared the beaver dam but that the beaver remains. Options were discussed.

Gravel Crushing – Voss expressed concerns that crushed material on hand may not be enough for potential flood events. The Road Enhancement fund balance was viewed – currently \$52,316. We are expecting an additional \$20,000 from the levy into that fund.

DOT Tags – Reineccius reported that tags are ready but are not yet on the vehicles.

Dodge Repair – Reineccius reported that the repairs are done but the Dealer wants to do additional test driving and checking to ensure that everything is running properly. Some of the work was warranty. The group discussed the need to get an invoice for next week so a check could be cut or to set up an account with Duluth Dodge.

Tractor Repair – A repair estimate from Lulich Implement totaling approximately \$22,000 was viewed. The group discussed whether it was a good idea to spend this much on a 31-year-old tractor. Reineccius had also brought a quote for a new tractor with boom mower showing cost of \$225,997 and rental quotes at a cost of \$800 per day plus blade and delivery costs. The problem of how to accomplish mowing with no mower was discussed. The repair cost may pay for itself if we get two years of mowing out of it. Krech expressed concerns that there may be more things wrong with this tractor even after repairs. Voss expressed concerns that if repaired, the tractor should never be run in the ditches.

### **General Sewer Operations**

Operator's Report – Not yet available, however Reineccius reported that he will be going out on pond 2 with chemicals to kill the coon tail that is taking over. He installed a fan in the Filter building to help keep the pumps cool.

McLaughlin Project – Reineccius went to McLaughlin's and found no issues with their plans for a new bathroom in their new garage.

Gerard Project – Reineccius discussed issues with the connection to the main and said it may have to be re-tapped in a new place. The group worked today on it and will be working on it tomorrow and continuing it until it is done.

Rostvold Project – The house construction appears to have stalled out with no changes since last fall. Electrical is not ready at the site. Reineccius said they'd still like to complete the sewer installation as soon as possible.

Lift Stations – The problem with the seal on pump 1 has fixed itself. Reineccius said that Sycom had to adjust the alarms as there were false alerts. He said the grease problem has disappeared, but he will continue using grease bugs. He reported inspecting Grand Superior grinder stations and found no grease problem.

Charge for Gravel – The sewer fund will need to pay for gravel applied to the Sewer roads. Hull said this can be done later once the project is done and the number of loads needed is known.

### **Stewart River Wastewater Project**

No change.

### **Correspondence**

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Email from Ben Oliver asking for as-built engineering on his two grinder stations. The number of grinder stations was discussed and Reineccius said there are two out there as there is an older one not connected to anything. Oliver has not said what kind of project is being designed.
- Levy statement of remittance showing that the Town received \$243,717.50 last week (the first half of the levy)
- Payment Advice from the State of MN showing we received \$1,255.63 received as reimbursement for the Presidential Primary Election.
- RMB lab testing results on sewer were received.
- Email from Park State Bank showing that Shelly Peterson has been activated and Bobbi Salakka removed from the bank access.
- PO from GFSP for dust control for the campground – this has been done and the Park has been invoiced for the work.
- Quarterly statement from Nationwide showing the balance of Employee Retirement fund.
- PERA newsletter.
- MAT Info on flooding resources for Townships.
- MAT June Newsletter.
- IRRRB Notice of Grant Opportunities.
- 2 Hearing Notices – 1 variance request and 1 vacation rental.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Cemetery Caps Project – Oftedahl reported that about three quarters of the second quadrant is done. The Sentence to Serve Labor is not available again until late July.

Historic Hall – Krech reported that he plans to talk to the Historical Society.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Election Judge Approval – Oftedahl is still working on getting Judges who are available on August 13<sup>th</sup> – the list of judges must be approved next week.

Cemetery Gate Signs – Pictures of some of the litter at the cemetery caused by weed whipping silk flowers was viewed and the verbiage for new gate signs was considered. Oftedahl and Anderson are asking for a budget to be set at next week's meeting for the purchase of the signs.

Personnel Issues – Concerns with schedules, timesheets, safety and communication were discussed. Hull scheduled a meeting with the team and made a list of items to discuss.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, July 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk