

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 2024

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 Oftedah; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Paul Thompson and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: None

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

### **Constituent Concerns**

Thompson reported a call from Rebecca Thibido who was concerned about gravel being plowed from the turnaround at the end of Flood Bay Road onto her grass. They believe that the turnaround could be expanded and the Town could add gravel. Hull explained that an easement would have to be done, but first we need to find the old one. Thompson also reported that he took care of the tree down on the Cemetery gates after a cemetery visitor stopped in to complain.

Krech reported that Kevin Hudson spoke to him and wanted it on record that he was not the one who shut off the snowmobile trail near his property.

### **Road and Safety**

Road Report – Thompson reported that he did three days of road grading starting November 20 and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> it snowed and they began plowing. There have been two snow events and so far things are going pretty well. Hull added that someone read the newsletter regarding snow plowing over the road, but there are folks still doing this. Thompson had new tires put onto the sewer truck. He also reported that he emailed Lake County regarding the gravel crushing bid, and requested 5,000 yards of Class 1 at Swandstrom's Pit.

Tractor Repair – Thompson called, and they have removed the mower but have not done anything else.

### **General Sewer Operations**

Operator's Report – The group reviewed Operator Appelwick's report. Thompson presented an estimate for repair of the radiator in one of the Generators. The group suggested waiting on this repair until next year.

Grease Problems – Appelwick's report stated that they would meet with restaurant staff in December or January.

Lift Station Pump Replacement – The group viewed a quote received from Bollig Engineering for \$7,000 to determine needs and solicit and receive bids for pump replacement at Lift Station 1. Some questions were raised regarding this price and exactly what service the Town would receive. The group discussed options and reviewed the amount spent on repairs over the past couple years. Hull suggested putting in the cheaper pumps. After discussion, the Clerk's office was directed to invite Operator Appelwick and Engineer Nathan Feist to attend the January COW to discuss the pump replacement project.

Ben Oliver Project – Thompson said a locate was requested along 1200 feet of highway frontage in that area, so he assumes it is for that project.

Ordinance Issues – Oftedah reported that in reviewing sewer ordinances for the proposed RV campground, she found that the 2007 revised version was apparently not recorded with Lake County. Normally, by law, a new ordinance is to be recorded within 20 days after it is passed. The group discussed options and it was suggested that the opportunity be taken to see if any other updates need to be incorporated and then go through the Hearing process and pass a new version.

### **Facilities**

General Operations – Thompson bought a camera for the shop but it is not yet installed. He also stored Ron Studier's ATV.

Recycling Trailer – Thompson said things are going well so far.

## **Stewart River Wastewater Project**

Voss reported no changes with this project.

### **Correspondence**

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Notice of receipt of \$172,645.77 in levy funds. That leaves about \$25,000 unreceived. The Town will receive another check in January that includes late payments.
- Bollig quote package for RFP consulting for pump replacement at Lift Station 1 (as discussed earlier in minutes).
- Email written by Thompson to Jason Di Piazza requesting gravel be ordered on the County's bid to be crushed in Swandstrom's pit as discussed above.
- Email from the Clerk's Office to Ben Oliver regarding completing the CUP application and asking him to complete Silver Creek's application for sewer.
- Email from Dean Nelson expressing interest in serving as an outsourced Sewer Operator for the Town.
- Email notification of Lake County Hearing next Tuesday and a copy of their draft Cannabis Ordinance. After Krech expressed interest in attending, motion Hull, second Voss to name Krech the Town's designated cannabis contact. Motion carried unanimously.
- MAT November Newsletter stating that the Town must complete the Local Unit of Government Cannabis Licensing Contact and Delegation Form for the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management.
- Email from Jason DiPiazza to DOT regarding the 2013 hydraulic Flood Report for the potential bridge replacement of E Alger Grade over Encampment River near Clark Rd, asking if the project is fundable as the old culvert is smaller than normally eligible.
- Letter from Nate Eide regarding the County's Sealed Bid Timber Auction on 12/12/2024.
- Email from Kitty Mayo asking if they can reprint excerpts from our Newsletter in the Lake County Press.
- Request from the Clerk's Office to Appelwick for copies of all MPCA reporting.
- Email from ARDC Planning notifying the Town of transportation grants available for projects either "Transportation Alternatives" or "Carbon Reduction Program"
- Notice of low interest housing repair loans for low-income homeowners.
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement.
- Park State Bank Pledge Report.
- 1 Notice from Lake County Planning and Zoning of an Interim Use Application.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Historic Hall – No change.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Driveway Access Policy Resolution Update – The group tried to develop criteria for when a second or third driveway should be allowed. Hull proposed that one access per 330 feet of road frontage be the norm and customers could apply for additional access. The group then went back and forth on whether the Town should supply a culvert and if so should it be free or not. At issue is the desire to ensure a good access with proper drainage is created versus the time constraints on a small staff. The County requires the owner to purchase from them a culvert of the correct size. Sales tax must be collected and paid to the state if culverts are sold. The county does not do the installation. Everyone agreed to give the subject more thought.

Domain Name & Website Update to .gov – Per Minnesota law, websites for entities who will be managing absentee voting need to change their website domain to .gov. Names were considered as well as an estimate from Breakwall Digital to do the work. Breakwall will not do email change projects. The price viewed was for the website work only. Oftedahl explained that changing email was much more involved due to the number of accounts with other entities that are built around the current email addresses. The Board authorized the Clerk's office to choose the new domain name.

Approve the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule – Everyone took home a copy of the draft schedule to review it for passage next week.

Thompson Job Title – The group discussed naming Thompson the “permanent” Town Operations and Facilities Manager. He has been serving as “interim” for 6 months.

Update photo of the Board Supervisors for the website – Planned for next week.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. upon motion Hull, second Krech. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Oftedahl, Clerk