

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 14, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Silver Creek was held in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, Two Harbors, Minnesota, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

Present:

Chuck Voss	Greg Hull	Chris Jaeger	Alison Oftedahl
Jody Reineccius	Paul Thompson	Katie Anderson	Shele Hull
Phil Sogge	Rich Sve	Debbie Cooter	Jessica Peterson
Joe Thorne	Joe Jacobs	Denise Bohrer	Dick Bohrer
Dan Overby	Gary Reinke	John Fogelberg	Michelle Backes-Fogelberg
John Bathke	Scott Krech	Bruce Carlson	Mike Hoops

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Clerk Alison Oftedahl, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. John Bathke agreed to preside as Moderator after nomination by Chuck Voss and unanimous Yea vote.

Motion Rich Sve, second Dick Bohrer to approve the agenda as read aloud by Moderator Bathke. Carried unanimously.

After several minutes allowed for reading, motion Greg Hull, second Denise Bohrer to approve as presented, last year's Annual Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Jamie Pellman presented her report showing an end of year bank balance of \$774,699.73. The report was accepted as presented upon motion Chuck Voss, second Rich Sve. Carried unanimously.

The next Annual Meeting was set for Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 8:15 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road upon motion by Alison Oftedahl, second Dan Overby. Carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Chairman's Annual Report

Chairman Voss gave credit to employees for dedicated work and prudent spending in the face of high inflation. Accomplishments this year included the acquisition of a new Dodge crew truck and a new International tandem axle dump and plow truck as well as obtaining a permit for a Town gravel pit. He noted that ARPA funds paid for the Dodge and the down payment on the dump truck. He thanked the Election Judges for running three elections this year. He also recognized outgoing Supervisor Chris Jaeger.

Castle Danger Wastewater Report

Voss then reported that the Castle Danger Sanitary District is being maintained well and has a positive fund balance of \$185,408 for future maintenance and updates. 2022 Sewer rates were not changed and there is a possibility of new residential connections.

Stewart River Project Report

Chairman Voss reported that the Stewart River Wastewater Project is seeking funding in the 2023 Minnesota State Legislature Bonding Bill. He said the best way to achieve funding according to Bollig Engineering is to do the project in sections. The Town is also applying for 2023 congressionally directed federal funding sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith.

Report on Personnel

Supervisor Hull reported that no one was hired or fired this year, making it a good year. He presented a framed certificate of appreciation to outgoing Supervisor Jaeger for 3 years of dedicated service and noting Jaeger's humor, wit, and excellence in defusing tense situations.

Report on Facilities and Cemetery

Supervisor Jaeger described the Township as a well-oiled machine and said it had been a pleasure to serve. He said that the Historic Hall and Pavilion were used for Yoga, the Ukulele Festival, and seasonal storage. He reported that the Cemetery is being spruced up with new trees, and next year, new watering stations. Jaeger also reported a new copier was purchased for the office this year.

Report on Town Operations

Operations Manager Jody Reineccius said that he purchased a new mower for roads but that early snow cut the brushing season short. He said they used less chloride on roads last summer to save money but that residents should call if there is too much dust. He thanked the Board for the new truck purchases and said that snow has never been removed more quickly. He said that he is working on the new gravel pit and hopes to get not only sand but also topsoil from it. At the sewer he mentioned some problems that remain to be fixed at the lift station. Finally, he acknowledged that roads are bad right now due to ice and too much snow and asked for patience as he and Thompson work to get it under control.

**BUDGET & LEVY**

Attendees viewed and considered the proposed budget and levy (included below) as Chairman Voss discussed it. He said that for 2022, the town came in only 4% over budget, not counting ARPA spending, which was good considering the high inflation rate. He said that due to the rise in the cost of materials, fuel, electricity and labor, the Board felt it prudent to raise the 2024 Levy to \$440,000. He said that although the proposed levy is lower than the proposed expenditures, the difference will be covered by current fund balances and about \$95,000 in Taconite, Gas Tax, Town Aid and other sources. He reminded everyone that no part of the levy goes toward Castle Danger Wastewater. The sewer runs as an enterprise and is funded separately by users of the system.

Scott Krech asked about the loss in Taconite Production Tax resulting from 2022's Silver Bay mine closure. Supervisor Hull explained that Taconite tax is awarded based upon a three-year average and that we don't know the amounts to be received in 2023 or 2024 but that the Board used a lower estimate when planning the budget and levy.

Motion Dan Overby, second Rich Sve to accept as presented the budget and levy included below.  
Motion carried upon unanimous Yea vote.

<u>Budget:</u>	<u>2024 Proposed</u>	<u>2023</u>
General	<b>\$118,100</b>	\$84,500
Road & Bridge	<b>\$343,500</b>	\$313,000
Road Enhancement	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$20,000
Building	<b>\$39,250</b>	\$38,750
Fire	<b>\$45,000</b>	\$45,000
Cemetery	<b>\$10,500</b>	\$10,500
General Debt Service	<b>\$56,000</b>	\$56,000
<b>TOWN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$632,350</b>	\$567,750

<u>Levy:</u>	<u>2024 Proposed</u>	<u>2023</u>
General	<b>\$44,000</b>	\$30,000
Road & Bridge	<b>\$275,000</b>	\$249,000
Road Enhancement	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$20,000
Building	<b>\$25,000</b>	\$25,000
Fire	<b>\$45,000</b>	\$45,000
Cemetery	<b>\$2,500</b>	\$2,500
General Debt Service	<b>\$28,500</b>	\$28,500
<b>TOWN TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>\$440,000</b>	400,000

Other anticipated Income	<b>\$95,300</b>	\$95,450
<b>TOWN TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$535,300</b>	\$495,450

OLD BUSINESS: None

**OTHER**

Denise Bohrer spoke up in support of using less chloride on roads because it really harms vehicles. Then, Alison Oftedahl asked whether there was an update on the new cell Tower on Alger. Supervisor Hull reported that there is not yet a lease agreement but that the tower is expected to be built. He noted that Lake County is the zoning authority. County Commissioner Sve reported that ATT&T is hoping for a longer lease but current law allows only 10 years.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The uncanvassed Election results were presented by Head Judge Phil Sogge. He reported that 95 ballots were cast. For the office of Supervisor, Scott Krech received 66 votes and Colleen Ward received 28 votes. For the office of Treasurer, Jamie Pellman received 89 votes.

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed at 8:55 p.m. upon motion Fogelberg, second Krech and unanimous Yea vote. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk

Moderator John Bathke

