TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2026

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday October 6, 2026 in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Greg Hull, Chuck Voss, and Mike Hoops; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Paul Thompson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: None

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

Constituent Concerns

Anderson reported a call from Michael Steffes about a sewer alarm. She also received an after hours sewer alarm call from Gooseberry Falls State Park. Both of these calls should have gone to Advanced Utility Solutions' 800 number. Evidently it was not working properly. Both of these sewer issues were resolved.

Road and Safety

Thompson reported that in the past few weeks many roads were graded. West Castle Danger has needed repeated grading due to the higher volume of traffic bypassing Highway 61. He and Larsen added gravel to East Alger Grade, Clark Road and West Castle Danger. He approved a driveway access permit off Flood Bay Road and took care of a beaver problem on West Castle Danger. Finally he responded to a washout on Press Camp Road.

Skid Steer Tracks – Thompson reported that McCoy will give 20% off for replacement of the tracks and other needed parts. There were no objections to his moving forward with this repair.

Tractor Brakes – Lulich Implement has not responded to a request for quote.

Tree Clearing along Cemetery and Highway 3 – Hoops, Hull, and Thompson all spoke to (various) interested contractors. Bids are due by the 13th. Hoops reported that he checked with Lake County Planning and Zoning. They said that trees may be cleared out, but no driving can be permitted within 30 feet of the "defined bottom" stream.

Press Camp Culvert Lining – Thompson presented a quote from Subsurface Inc out of Fargo for repair of 8 culverts on Press Camp Road by lining them with a special type of material. This type of repair saves time and money because there is no excavation needed, and no new culvert to purchase. The existing road is kept open, saving the expense of building a detour. Thompson presented Subsurface's 31-page report with pictures of the insides of the culverts and the cost to repair each one. Prices ranged from $6,000-$10,000 to repair the smaller culverts up to $60,800 the repair the 60" pipe. After discussion, everyone was interested in trying this out. Thompson was asked to select 3 of the smaller culverts for a Board vote next week.

General Sewer Operations

The Board viewed the Operator's Report sent in by Appelwick. Hoops then reported on the control structure valve repair – it is done. The panel replacement done at Gooseberry Falls State Park was then discussed. After some debate, it was agreed not to charge the Park for the replacement because the old panel was 20-25 years old, there was about 18 inches of sludge in the bottom, and it could not be proved who might have backed into the panel and cracked the cover. Thompson was directed to make sure the new panel's post is marked with reflective paint to avoid having anyone back into it.

New Frost Blankets – Thompson reported that the frost blankets arrived and are in the process of being altered. As soon as alteration is complete, Thompson and Larsen will place them over each station.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported attending a Zoom meeting with officials from the USDA and the EPA regarding the CAWAG program. The meeting was very positive and he was told that they would like to assist with our project. Specifically, they provide free technical assistance to our Engineering firm to ensure that project documents are updated and fully meet both Federal and State standards. Voss will be following up with Bill Dunn the Senior Funding Advisor from Bollig on the next steps.

Facilities

Concrete Repair – Seal coating over the new cement is still incomplete.

Office WIFI and scanner Issues – Jaws will be coming in to finish fixing the WIFI after it was out for 4 days and because we no longer see both our 2G and 5G connections.

Hall Restoration Project

Hull reported on the September Hall Restoration Meeting and said it was extremely positive. The next meeting of that group is Monday, October 19th.

Informational Meetings Planned – Hull reported that the Restoration Committee has selected: Saturday, January 9th at 1 p.m.; and Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. for public informational meetings..

Newsletter – It was agreed that the December newsletter be devoted to the Hall Restoration Project.

Folk School Idea – Hull reported that his group is in the process of defining the purpose and uses of the building. In addition to already discussed purposes including Town Election and Community meetings, their group is researching the possibility of starting a Folk School at the Hall. The Committee is also working on a name, branding and marketing for the project.

Financing – Hull received loan information from Park State Bank. They are willing to loan the town $1.5 million at the following estimated terms: 15 years at 5.265% interest with annual payments of $147,113.15 or 20 years at the same rate with annual payments of $123,083.13.

Ballot Question and Procedure – Questions raised at the last meeting about the wording on the ballot and other procedural issues have been sent to Attorney Jesse Smith.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Emailed financing proposal information from Keira Wilson at Park State Bank as discussed above.
- Email from IRRR staff with grant requirements for signage.
- Irrevocable Letter of Credit for town bank accounts.
- Renewed MPCA Stormwater Permit for the gravel pit.
- Wastewater Infrastructure Funding worksheet submitted by Bollig on behalf of the Town.
- Notice of Emerald Ash Borer management funding available from Lake County.
- Documentation from Park State Bank confirming the official payoff of the Building and Loader Loan.
- Driveway Permit issued to the Thibodos.
- Minnesota Association of Townships September Newsletter.
- 3 Notices of Hearings from Lake County Planning and Zoning.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Superior Shores Liquor License Renewal Application – The application was considered for a vote next week.

PENDING BUSINESS

Seasonal Storage – Thompson reported things are ready to go for October 23rd.

Staff/Board Vacations – Hoops will be leaving the 15th of October and back the first week of December. Hull will be leaving October 27th and returning November 4th. Thompson will be out of Town next weekend and possibly the following one.

Approve Final Election Judge – Next week the Board will need to approve our final Judge for the Election Judge team, Joseph DeMarco

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. upon motion Hoops, second Voss. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk