

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2025

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday December 9, 2025 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; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Paul Thompson and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None.

Visitors Present: None.

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

Constituent Concerns

None.

Road and Safety

Road Report – Thompson said they have been doing a lot of plowing. He reported that the Dodge truck must go into the dealer for a problem with the exhaust system. Our warranty is still in place for that. However he discussed paying for additional extended warranty. He also reported a very slow air leak in the grader.

Chain Hoist Quote for Garage Doors – Thompson would like to get chain pulls for the doors as a backup during power outages. He brought in a quote that seemed high to the Board. A number of different options were discussed. Hull suggested purchase of a propane powered Generac and wiring a separate line for the doors.

Alger Grade Tree Removal – Hull reported that Cooperative Light and Power techs have requested that the Town remove some trees along Alger Grade at a place where there was a fire after a tree pulled the electric line down. The area is a line of trees between the road and the powerline right of way. It was agreed that we could get some competitive quotes for removal within our fifty foot right of way.

Flood Bay Alteration – Thompson reported that the survey should get done at the end of December, weather permitting.

General Sewer Operations

Operator's Report – Appelwick's report was viewed on screen.

Lift Station 1 & Grease Issues – Thompson reported that there is no grease right now which may be due to much lower customer volume at the restaurant or the recent very cold weather.

GIS Star Grant Final Reporting – Oftedahl showed a section of the final grant report that she is writing and then the group also viewed the new GIS map online.

Access Fee when Residential Accts change to Commercial – Hull brought up the issue that we do not have set policy in our sewer billing ordinance to handle conversion from residential to commercial. Currently there are two accounts that may convert although neither has yet received a permit. Hoops requested the ordinance be emailed to him.

Sewer Finances and Potential Fund Transfer – It was agreed that a transfer from the Replacement Fund to the Operations Fund would be good to do in December. Oftedahl was asked to estimate the amount we need to transfer.

Facilities

Old Town Hall Project – Hull reported that he was approached about grant funds of \$25,000 that may be able to offset the pre-design and design phase of this project. He did not remember the name but has it in his email. He did not have new progress on the potential land purchase.

- Selection of Citizen Committee Members – An “interest card” has been developed for use tomorrow night. Hull reported that there are a few people not able to make the meeting. The full Board will make the appointments – but a deadline for that has not been set. It may be in January.
- Resolution Establishing Citizen Committee – The wording was adjusted to clarify that every motion doesn't have to come before the Silver Creek Board, but that any decision by the subcommittee requiring an expenditure must be approved in advance by the Board.
- Amount for Interfund Transfer Building to Capital Projects – Oftedahl presented numbers. Of the \$125,000 that was levied for this project and has already been received, about \$20,000 has been spent

on the Feasibility Study, the Structural Engineering Study, and the special meetings. Therefore Oftedahl proposed a transfer from Building to Capital Projects of \$105,000.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that he has a meeting with Bollig and will talk to Duane Hill. A letter of support from the Northshore Management Board was reviewed. He is also working to determine the status of the line to Superior Shores and its impact on assessments and on the project as a whole.

Northshore Management Board Joint Powers Agreement – Voss reported that he does not feel that we need to have an attorney read this because it is very similar to our previous agreement. Hull challenged the need to belong to this group. Hoops explained that it provides for local control instead of state control.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Notice of Dec 3rd deposit of the second half of the levy – \$183,635.77.
- Determination of Paid Leave Premium Rate for 2026, showing the Town is considered a small employer and must pay in .66% of last year's taxable wage base (\$185,000). Payments are quarterly with the first one at the end of April.
- Letter from ARDC requesting that one member of the Town Board serve on ARDC and requesting that a nomination be sent. Hoops reported that he already serves on this commission as an "at large" representative.
- Executed Task Order No 3 from Bollig for the Predesign Study for Old Hall Project.
- Mowing Bids from Mark Wycoff.

OLD BUSINESS

MN Paid Leave Resolution – The Resolution will be voted on next week. It allows for use of benefit time in increments down to a quarter hour to top off the MN Paid Leave when out on an approved MN leave.

Insurance Comparison to Hamilton Monroe – Hull reported that Jon Acheson called and would like a record of three years of loss reports from our current insurer. It was agreed to provide that information in order to get a competitive quote for insurance to compare to MATIT.

NEW BUSINESS

Mowing Quotes – The Board viewed quotes submitted by Mark Wycoff. The cemetery was quoted at triple last year's cost and the sewer quote was ten times last year's. No other quotes were yet received.

Approve 2026 Board Meeting Schedule – Next year's schedule will be approved next week.

Designate Township Election Location and Polling Hours – to be motioned next week.

PENDING BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. upon motion Hoops, second Voss. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk