TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2026

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday August 4, 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

None

Road and Safety

Thompson reported completing mowing on Clark, Balsam, Dogwood, and Alger Grade. Grading was done recently on West Castle Danger, East Castle Danger, and Bunker roads, but the lack of rain has made it extremely difficult. He reported that one truck repair was completed – the exhaust sensor on the Dodge was replaced on the warranty. He also reported that a pin was replaced on the boom on the tractor.

Tree Clearing along Highway 3 at the Cemetery – Thompson has not had a chance to talk to the County about this. Competitive quotes were discussed.

General Sewer Operations

The Operator's report submitted by Eric Appelwick was reviewed. Hoops noted that influent was way down. The low rainfall was discussed. Thompson reported that he is working to get a vendor to cut the frost blankets down to a smaller size to make them much easier to handle. Hoops requested that a first aid kit and eye washing station be purchased for the Filter building. Hoops is looking into Star Grant funding for the sewer system.

Grease at Lift Station 1 – Thompson reported that the grease hasn't been bad lately. Everyone read a report from Bob Whitmyer of Matrix Soils and Systems regarding the Rustic restaurant. It confirmed that the grease traps in the restaurant kitchen were being bypassed. A company called Polar Plumbing will be putting in new ones that will be on-floor, visible and accessible. Testing will be done to see if this mitigates the grease problem, or whether a new outdoor tank system will also be needed.

Facilities

Pavilion – Thompson reported that he got things ready for Yoga to begin tomorrow including putting up the screens, leaf blowing out the dust, turning on water, etc.

Concrete Repair – No change.

Cemetery – Thompson installed the new cemetery gate signs and reported one burial done and a grave marked for stone today.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

No change.

Hall Restoration Project

Hull has sent several questions and the proposed design contract to Attorney Scott Witty and is waiting for an answer. He expects to hear from him by the time of the August 18 Regular meeting. One of the questions involves having a ballot question at the March Township Election to allow voters to approve the project and its funding plan. He reported talking to Laura Ostlie about the USDA Rural Development grant and loan program. Ostlie informed him that the project has to be farther along in design before an application can be submitted.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- An email from IRRR granting permission to announce the $250,000 award in the newsletter.

- Email from Intuit announcing a price increase to $85 per month for Quickbooks software used for sewer billing.
- Email from the National Rural Water Association about recent Cyber Attacks on US Water Systems. The email suggests that operators remove exposed programmable logic controllers (PLCs) from the internet. Hoops explained that he verified with SyCom that the Castle Danger system is safe from attack because it does not use PLCs; nor any other controller that connects to.
- Signed contract renting the Pavilion for 2 months of weekly Yoga classes. Oftedahl reported that they would also like to do Yoga the first 3 weeks of October. She and Thompson will check the calendar to determine when seasonal storage will begin.
- Invitation to IRRR State of the Range on Wednesday September 9 in Chisolm. Hull asked whether anyone would object to his going. The Board agreed but specified he must pay his own bar bill.
- Email forwarded from Operator Appelwick regarding grease traps at the Rustic Restaurant.
- 2 Public Hearing Notifications from Lake County Planning and Zoning.
- 1 Interim Use Approval Notification from Lake County Planning and Zoning.

OLD BUSINESS

Re-Open of Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting will be resumed at the August 18th Regular Meeting. Hoops informed the Board that he may be absent. The Board briefly discussed the levy and whether concerns with the Fire Fund might justify an increase. Each Board member received a copy of the budget and levy that were approved at the Annual meeting for review prior to August 18th.

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Coverage – The inventory of garage tools and equipment done by Thomspon was reviewed. The Board discussed changing the buildings from “agreed value” back to “replacement value”. In the proposed changes, the Garage building (including the office, boardroom, sewer garage, etc.) would have its value increased from approximately $900,000 to $1.33 million. The Cold Storage building would be increased from $125,000 to $219,737. Contents of the garage would be increased to $209,440; and contents of the Cold Storage building would go from $0 to $58,150. Finally, four items were added individually to the inland marine policy: the culvert steaming trailer and equipment; the attachments for the skid steer, and two plows. MATIT’s premium increase for these changes is $1,649.

PENDING BUSINESS

Election – Oftedahl requested that Thompson and Larsen move the large Board tables out of the room by next Monday for the Election.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. upon motion Hoops, second Voss. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk