

**TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 13 2026**

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday January 13, 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; 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 6:32 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns

None.

Road and Safety

Thompson reported that there has been quite a lot of ice to deal with. The grader carbides were burned up cutting the ice and two more sets had to be ordered. He and Larsen have also been working on vehicle maintenance. The error codes on the Dodge truck cannot be cleared except by a dealer. Larsen hit a group of mailboxes on Valhalla. Repairs need to be done. Thompson ordered 25 swinging mailbox posts at \$69 apiece.

Assistance to City of Beaver Bay – Thompson reported that Beaver Bay had a major water line issue and is requesting hauling assistance from Silver Creek. He suggested we sell them some of our sand and what is left of the BA asphalt chip material. The Board was fine with it.

Garage Door Generator or Chains – Hull made a public statement that Hoops was right and that he was wrong in the last discussion – he learned from an electrical engineer that this is a commercial building and the electrical needs to pass inspection. It was agreed that some type of generator is the way to go.

Alger Grade Tree Removal – Upon measurement, the trees were found to lie within the Town's 50 foot right-of-way. Hoops will solicit some competitive quotes for this job. Hull stated he would abstain based upon his son's company may be one of the options.

Flood Bay Alteration – Thompson reported that the survey fieldwork is done and that documentation should be delivered soon. Even if the turnaround is not extended, a road alteration will be needed because our Town road extends beyond its legal description.

2026 New Driveway Access Fee Rates – There appeared to be agreement to maintain the current rates.

Mystery Easement/Road – Hull spent some time reading old documentation that seemed to say that the Forest Service created a road in 1993 that the Town agreed to take over subsequently. The old map was not clear. The Board will try to find this area on the Road Tour and directed the Clerk to be sure to save these old documents.

General Sewer Operations

Operator's Report – Appelwick's report was presented by Hoops. Service calls to Cedar Ridge's duplex pump were discussed. Hoops would like to see dividers cut on all of these pumps so that they would work properly. The 2025 flow rates were recalculated for this report. Questions were raised as to whether the 2024 ones were also re-cast. The Board viewed a document showing that since they were surged, the Lift Station pump starts are way down compared to the same month last year. Hoops noted that Appelwick is requesting that the system purchase an electronic rain gauge for about \$500. An idea to take a portion of the Replacement Fund proceeds and invest them in a bank CD was discussed. Oftedahl was asked to check legalities and Hoops will check options at Park State Bank.

Lift Station 1 Grease Issues – Grease has not been a problem since November according to Thompson. The group discussed whether it was lack of business at the Restaurant or the colder weather or both that have resolved the problem for now.

Transfer for Sewer Truck Use – After viewing last year's mileage, an amount of \$2200 was suggested – to be voted upon next week.

Sewer Mowing Bids – Two quotes were reviewed. Mark Ness quoted \$6,000 for the season and Advanced Utility Services quoted \$5,650 with a note that this is not the final fee and that additional level of service would be an increased charge.

Facilities

2026 Cemetery Plot and Interment Rates – Oftedahl and Hull both reported that Cavallin has no request for rate increases. There was no interest in raising plot fees.

Cemetery/Town Building Mowing Bids – Two quotes were reviewed. Mark Ness quoted \$6,000 for the season, and Senst Construction quoted \$10,300 for the season.

Hall Restoration Project

Committee Appointment – Hull reported that all 8 people he called accepted (6 full committee members and 2 alternates). He reported that their first organizational meeting will be Tuesday January 27th. The Board viewed a Certificate of Appointment that also provides for acceptance by the candidate and a signature line acknowledging that the committee must adhere to all applicable laws.

Payments to Committee & Clarification of Hull and Anderson – Hull suggested that the Secretary for the Hall Restoration Committee receive a larger per diem of \$100 to account for the time of typing minutes. Oftedahl suggested that smaller tasks such as posting, scheduling, typing the agenda, and uploading minutes that must be done at the office be combined in with Anderson's current work at her hourly wage.

Property Issue – Hull has not been able to locate Ryan Sippers to continue discussions.

2026 Hall Rental Agreement – Hull suggested that the agreement language and rates for the upcoming year be handed over to the Hall Restoration Project.

Removal of Items from Hall – Removal of the large safe was discussed and Oftedahl was asked to try to locate documentation of the combination.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss met with Feist at Bollig to look at the user agreement and work on improving it. Feist raised questions about the size of the pipe between Superior Shores and Two Harbors and its importance to the ultimate number of users on the system. Voss also reported trying to set up an appointment with the owner of Superior Shores. The possibility of the school being on our system as it is located in our Township was discussed. Hull brought up the need for lobbying, asking Voss to go to the Capitol and also asking him to try to get Skraba and Hauschild to come to a meeting.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Quarterly report from Nationwide.
- Hamilton Monroe Cyber Insurance Policy overview with 2026 premium
- Email from MN Office of Cannabis regarding lower potency hemp licensing.
- Email from Nate Eide regarding proposed ATV trail over the Township-owned 80 acres. Printed maps were displayed overhead. The paper notice had been sent to the Town via the home address of retired Clerk Wendy Langanki, who brought in the notice.
- From US Bank, the balance in the CD being held for the Gordon variance to tear down a non-conforming deck.
- Notice of receipt of Town Aid in the amount of \$5,388.50 and Agricultural Credit of \$58.38.
- Notice of receipt of \$7,497 for reimbursement per the STAR grant received for GIS mapping of the wastewater system.
- Email notice of property tax receipt of \$27,565.50.
- From Lake County, one notice of Public Hearing for Land Use Issues, and associated application materials.
- Email from Rural Water Strong thanking Silver Creek for support.

OLD BUSINESS

Cyber Insurance Renewal – The 2026 premium is \$4,154 – the same as last year. The Board had no objections to continuing this insurance.

Insurance Comparison to Hamilton/Monroe – No quote received yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Facebook Account – The Board had no objections to the Deputy Clerk Anderson starting work on a Facebook account for the Town. The goal would be to provide information to the public more frequently than the newsletter and to reach younger Township residents and thereby increase participation.

Approve 2026 Mileage Rate \$0.72 – No discussion – decision to be made next week.

Employee COLA Raises & Anderson 5 yr service – The COLA rate released by the Federal government today is 2.7%. Hull proposed raising the Deputy Clerk wage to \$25 per hour, just over the amount of 2.7% COLA combined with 2% longevity for five years. Thompson raised a concern that he never received his five year 2% longevity raise and that he would like to see proof that he has.

Approve Election Judge Absentee Board for Township Election – Not discussed.

PENDING BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. upon motion Hoops, second Voss. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk