

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2025

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, October 7, 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 (arrived late at 7:15 p.m.); 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 6:34 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns

Thompson reported that Robert Parks on Alger Grade wants the Town to fix his driveway approach as promised a couple years ago. The water currently runs either into the property or onto the road, and since the road height has been increased, it is going into the property right now. Thompson said we cannot have the water going right into the road – so he plans to go look at the site and try to determine what can be done.

Road and Safety

Thompson reported adding gravel to the west end of Alger and grading it from Clark to Hwy 2. He also graded West Castle Danger Rd and sprayed it with a new chloride/water combination. He said that Larsen finished the mowing. The tractor is having new glass applied tomorrow. As directed by the Lake County bridge inspection, he and Larsen moved rip rap below the Town Road bridge to promote proper water flow and prevent erosion. They mowed at the snowmobile parking lot for the DNR to prepare for the Heck of the North Bike race and the Enduro Ride. New tires were installed on the Dodge. Three years worth of cutting blades were purchased during the Zeigler sale, saving \$4,200. Synthetic oil was purchased from Halron Lubricants, saving \$2,000 compared to last year. He also reported that he inspected MacFarlane's new driveway approach with Hull and it looks good.

Gravel Purchase – Voss reported that he spoke to Jack Lax at JBL trucking and they have Class 5 available for purchase. He said it is good quality and is being used in the Two Harbors project. In discussion, the distance to Fox Farm Rd was considered as well as other vendors who are much closer.

Utility Installation along Burlington Road – Hull reported that he and Thompson met with the construction manager for Squan/Frontier regarding the fiber line and their plans look good. The permit has been issued.

Flood Bay Alteration – This agenda topic was not discussed.

General Sewer Operations

The Wastewater Operator's Report sent by Appelwick was reviewed. The precipitation levels do not match Thompson's records and seem to be incorrect for September. The low levels of influent were discussed. Thompson reported that the driplines have not yet been blown out. He is borrowing a compressor and has purchased a new Go-Pro camera to film Hoops' training on this process. Hoops reported that overall, everything is going well.

Updated Operations Proposal from AUS – Voss has not yet received a proposal from Appelwick. The report says he is working on it.

Lift Station One Grease Problems – Thompson reported that Superior Septic pumped all the grease out of Lift Station 1 and got it very clean. He was not able to pump the restaurant's traps out and a regular schedule has not yet been established. Roeder told Thompson that Betty's Pies uses 6 grease traps whereas the Rustic only has 4.

Lind's Wastewater Account – Lind's house used to be included with the commercial invoicing of Castle Haven Resort. He is not with the resort and his house will now be a new residential account billed at the standard residential rate.

New Connections – The status of Drechsler's new connection was discussed. The line to the grinder station has been connected, but the assessment has not yet been paid. Thompson agreed to go down and check whether the new house has been built. Oftedahl reported on Duke's property. She called this week to ask again about her sewer and has been sent an application – the assessment is already paid on her parcel.

Refurbish Town Hall Project

Friends of Silver Creek – The definition of 501(c)(3) non profits as well as the pros and cons of the formation of a non profit vs a committee was discussed. It was agreed that more information is needed from Crystal Bay Township and from attorneys.

Development of Working Committee – Plans were made for a special meeting on Wednesday December 10th to form a "Working Committee" of interested citizens. Once formed, this Committee will work on all plans, conduct their own meetings and write their own minutes. One Supervisor will be a part of the committee. Oftedahl was asked to advertise it in the newsletter and to use email to reach out to all those who advocated for saving the Hall to volunteer for the committee.

Land Purchase/ Sale Potential – Next Hull introduced an idea for the Town to buy 7 or more acres to bring the parcel where the Old Hall sits up to conforming size. He suggested selling the Town's curve land on Highway 3 to raise funds for the land purchase. The group authorized him to approach the landowner regarding willingness to sell.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Plans for tomorrow morning's presentation at Split Rock Lighthouse were discussed and the presentation slides created by Bollig were viewed. Voss said he would be introducing everyone, then Bollig would present the slides and then Hull will speak.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Letter drafted by the Clerk to Superior Septic granting permission to pump grease into Castle Danger wastewater treatment ponds.
- Letter from Jason DiPiazza at Lake County regarding load rating at the Town Road bridge stating that no load posting is required and that it can handle normal legal highway loads.
- Lind Account Transfer Form for residential wastewater service.
- RMB Testing Lab results for wastewater.
- Letter of credit and collateralization of Town Bank Accounts.
- MAT Annual Conference announcement and registration information. Voss plans to attend this year.
- MAT Newsletter.
- 1 announcement of Public Hearing for a Lake County Land Use Application.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mowing Quote Announcements – Ads drafted by Anderson for mowing contracts were viewed – the cemetery and sewer have been separated. Edits were made to the description of work at the sewer and adding mowing around the lift stations. It was agreed that they should be published as soon as they are ready with a deadline for quote being set for December 8th. The Board would like potential vendors to view the areas prior to snowfall.

Insurance Comparison – Anderson reported that she sent all requested information to Jon Hamilton Monroe and has not yet received a quote back from him.

Newsletter – A draft copy was viewed and edits were suggested.

PENDING BUSINESS

Seasonal Storage – Thompson reviewed his plans for fitting all items in the Pavilion. He has removed screens and is working on winterizing everything over at the Old Hall.

OTHER

Damage to Personal Vehicle – Thompson reported that he had Larsen use his personal vehicle to bring Thompson and Larsen down to Duluth to pick up the Dodge truck; and that on the way back, Larsen hit a deer. Hull suggested the Town reimburse the cost of the deductible for the damage. No objections were voiced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. upon motion Hoops, second Voss. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk