

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Silver Creek was held in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, Two Harbors, Minnesota, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

Present:

Chuck Voss	Greg Hull	Chris Jaeger	Alison Oftedahl	John Bathke	Allen Anderson
Dan Overby	Rachelle Hull	Jason Mozol	Kelsey Myhre	Phil Sogge	Katie Anderson
Mary Londborg					

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Clerk Alison Oftedahl, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. John Bathke agreed to preside as moderator after nomination by Alison Oftedahl and unanimous ye vote.

Motion Greg Hull, second Allen Anderson to approve the agenda as read aloud by Moderator Bathke. Carried unanimously.

After several minutes allowed for reading, motion Dan Overby, second Shele Hull to approve, as presented, the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes. Carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report, read by Jamie Pellman was accepted as presented upon motion Chuck Voss, second Allen Anderson. Carried unanimously.

The next Annual Meeting was set for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 8:15 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road upon motion by Oftedahl, second Overby. Carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Chairman's Annual Report, Castle Danger Report, and Stewart River

Chairman Voss reported that dedicated work done by Jody, Paul, Alison, Mike and Katie propelled us through the second year of the pandemic. The public requests and concerns were met, and the required work was done. He said that the Pandemic played its part in delaying the arrival of our new tandem axle plow truck ordered in April 2021. It is now expected in April of 2022. He thanked retired on-call Operator Allen Anderson and previous Deputy Clerk Laura Kleive and welcomed new Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson. He noted that based upon diligent research by Greg Hull, the Town has decided not to pursue single or regional sponsorship of the Silver Bay Airport. He reported the accomplishment of the new website in 2021 that contains contact numbers, meeting schedules, minutes, notice and news, and information on town services. Looking ahead, Voss promised to keep in contact with MNDOT regarding the Stewart River bridge project scheduled for 2022 and 2023.

Chairman Voss reported that the Castle Danger Sanitary District is being managed well which has resulted in a positive fund balance of \$153,809 for future maintenance and updates. He noted that rates were not changed last year. He said that the district is looking forward to the possibility of 6 new residential connections.

Chairman Voss reported that the Stewart River Wastewater Project is seeking funding in the 2022 Minnesota Legislature Bonding Bill. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith are sponsoring the project for congressionally directed federal funding in a bill that has been written. He explained that the American Rescue Plan Act paid for the updating of the Engineering and Environmental Reports which are required by funding agencies.

Report on Personnel, Roads, and Town Operations

Supervisor Hull explained that he would be filling two roles tonight because Town Operations Manager Reineccius is out of town. Hull explained that Reineccius is picking up a new 2021 Dodge truck to replace the old Dodge that has proven undependable. Funding for that vehicle came from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. The Town is receiving a total of approximately \$120,000 in ARPA funds across two years. Hull also noted that some funds were spent on upgrading the software monitoring at Castle Danger Wastewater, so that the Operator can monitor from remote without driving out to the sewer ponds. This has been a cost savings from a labor perspective. Hull reported that a focus for Reineccius last year was working toward his Class C Wastewater Operator's license and training with Mike Hoops on

the operator’s duties. With regard to roads, some brushing was done, some spot graveling, and some culverts were replaced. Hull complimented Reineccius and Thompson and said that having two full time employees has provided better coverage and reduced overtime expenses. He reported that the Road and Bridge fund came in under budget. He described Thompson and Reineccius as a couple of great guys who really stay on top of things. Finally, Hull noted that he had to call Allen Anderson in for the storm this weekend due to Reineccius being out of state, and Thompson being injured. Hull recognized and thanked Anderson for his willingness to come out of retirement to help out.

Supervisor Hull also reported on constituent concerns with a proposed 325-foot cell phone tower in Silver Creek. Hull reported that Silver Creek Supervisors supported local residents by writing a letter to request that alternative sites for the Tower be considered. Some different locations are currently being considered as a result of these efforts.

Report on Facilities and Cemetery

Supervisor Jaeger said that there haven’t been a lot of changes with facilities. He said we stored 9 boats and campers in the Pavilion this winter. The storage revenue of about \$1900 pays the utilities for the historic buildings. He reported that rates for Hall Rental are unchanged this year. He then explained a couple amendments made to the Cemetery Regulations. The Township will provide free plots for honorably discharged Veterans. And if anyone in the Township has a financial hardship with cemetery costs, we ask that they appeal to the Board. Jaeger noted the new wall monitor in the Board meeting room and pointed out the new larger size drop box out front of the office.

**BUDGET & LEVY**

Chairman Voss described 2021 as a good year. With prudent spending, taconite and gas tax, and Federal ARPA funding, we ended the year about \$120,000 better than we started. He said that although the 2023 budget is slightly higher than 2022, the proposed 2023 levy is lower by \$10,000 at a total of \$400,000. Voss also explained that no part of the township levy goes toward the Castle Danger Wastewater budget. The utility runs as an enterprise and is paid for by users of the system.

Attendees viewed and considered the proposed budget and levy included below. Kelsey Myhre raised a question about the Fire budget in light of last year’s fires. Hull explained that Silver Creek pays the City of Silver Bay and the City of Two Harbors for fire service. The budget was dropped because of positive fund balance. When no other questions were raised, motion Allen Anderson, second Dan Overby to approve the budget and levy as presented (included below). Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Budget:</u>	<u>2023 Proposed</u>	<u>2022</u>
General	<b>\$84,500</b>	\$73,000
Road & Bridge	<b>\$313,000</b>	\$314,500
Road Enhancement	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$20,000
Building	<b>\$38,750</b>	\$37,750
Fire	<b>\$45,000</b>	\$50,000
Cemetery	<b>\$10,500</b>	\$10,500
General Debt Service	<b>\$56,000</b>	\$56,000
<b>TOWN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$567,750</b>	561,750

<u>Levy:</u>	<u>2023 Proposed</u>	<u>2022</u>
General	<b>\$30,000</b>	\$42,500
Road & Bridge	<b>\$249,000</b>	\$246,500
Road Enhancement	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$20,000
Building	<b>\$25,000</b>	\$25,000
Fire	<b>\$45,000</b>	\$45,000
Cemetery	<b>\$2,500</b>	\$2,500
General Debt Service	<b>\$28,500</b>	\$28,500
<b>TOWN TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>400,000</b>	\$410,000

Other anticipated Income	<b>\$95,450</b>	\$116,150
<b>TOWN TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>495,450</b>	\$526,150

OLD BUSINESS:

Historic Town Hall Renovation – It was reported that the town is about half-way through a five-year levy for either tearing down or renovating the Historic Hall. In general discussion, doubt was raised that the amount (\$125,000) would be enough to renovate. Suggestions included a new building with a kitchen suggested by Shele Hull and Alison Oftedahl, a covered open-air slab for picnicking suggested by Allen Anderson, or replacement with a playground suggested by Greg Hull. Voss noted that the decision will not be made until the five years are up. When asked who would ultimately make the decision, Hull said it is the Board of Supervisors will decide, but that they are very open to any ideas or suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS:

The uncanvassed results of the election were presented by Head Judge Phil Sogge. For the office of Supervisor, Chuck Voss received 28 votes. For the office of Clerk, Alison Oftedahl received 27 votes and write-in Katie Anderson received 1 vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed at 9:21 p.m. upon motion Anderson, second Shele Hull. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk



Moderator John Bathke



DRAFT