

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2022

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday August 2, 2022, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Chuck Voss, Chris Jaeger, and Greg Hull; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius, and by phone, Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: Mike Hoops

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS

Kandice Szewcik Mowing and Plowing – Szewcik said she wanted to discuss issues with last winter’s plowing at the end of Town Road and the damage to her son’s bike done by the Town’s mower last week. Hull had Ms. Szewcik look with him at the road survey document that showed the Town’s right of way and easement extending 46 feet beyond the road. In discussion, it was agreed that a camper and another vehicle had been parked in the Town’s right of way all winter causing issues with snow removal. Szewcik said this would not be the case next year. Then the bicycle was discussed. Reineccius said it was an accident and apologized, however the bike was in the road right-of-way laying in deep grass. After discussion, motion Voss, second Hull to pay up to \$125 for a new bike. Motion carried unanimously. Szewcik will purchase at either Seagren’s or Julie’s Hardware and charge this to the Town’s account.

ROAD & SAFETY

Road Report – Reineccius reported a flat tire on the loader and his frustration that the tires are almost new and have had repeated issues. Pomp’s has been called and should repair it free of charge based upon failure of the previous repair job a few weeks ago. He said mowing is underway, and the new mower works well. He said a stronger stainless-steel pump was purchased for chloride application because the past few years a new plastic pump had to be purchased every year and they didn’t last. He reported that the Cemetery was marked for a new rock and plant garden area.

Gravel Pit Application – Reineccius reported that he staked out the area of planned excavation and assisted Anderson with drawing the location on a topographic map. Supervisors viewed the application document that was submitted to Lake County last week. Oftedahl reported hearing from McCarthy at Lake County that a hearing for the application could not be held until September. Hull wants to attend with Reineccius if the Hearing is in the beginning of September. He said he will be gone the second half of September. Anderson agreed to check on the Hearing date.

Disaster Preparation – Oftedahl reported on her conversation with Amy Lewis in GIS regarding use of the County’s Survey 123 app. Lewis said she needed to look into it.

GENERAL SEWER OPERATIONS

Operator’s Report – Hoops did not attend meeting. Reineccius reported that the concrete on the sewer stations was completed.

New Installs – Reineccius reported that he and Thompson want to get the connection at Long’s property done this week.

Sludge Reports – The Board viewed sonar testing graphics of sludge build-up for each pond and discussed Hoops’ Summary report on sludge included below.

July 29, 2022

Summary of Pond Sonar Testing

Look at Pond #1- This is what I anticipated to be there. We really are in good shape at this point in time and if we continue enhancing the biological action in the ponds this may have another 20 years before it needs to be dredged.

It shows an average depth of 14.4” which is 21.1% of the total capacity of the pond. You must maintain a minimum of 24” at all times. No maintenance is needed in the short term. Visual inspection that I do when I drain the ponds down shows no real change in the last 4-5 years even with the increased septage brought in by septic haulers. But the trash in the septage as well as gravel, dirt, etc. can lead to earlier dredging. Just something to be cognizant of.

Pond #1 has two spots that build up with solids. Out in the center where the discharge is and in the SE corner where dumping occurs. Buildup is enhanced in the SE corner by prevailing NW winds.

Going to Pond #2. No surprise here. The pond receives the settled wastewater from Pond #1. Average sludge depth is 6” with a 10% loss of capacity. This pond can be used for primary treatment if we need to. I have never used it that way. Water is cleaner by running in series.

Arriving at Pond#3 the final pond, where the water is finished, and alum applied. Alum helps build sludge quickly as it precipitates out the Phosphorus in the water. This sludge blanket has been greatly reduced over the last few years by the Superbugs. It would be piled in the corners at the 4’ mark. Usually now, I don’t see it until I get down to 2.5’ or less. As you can see on the 3D view, there was nothing in June at that height. I am under 3” as I write this and see no sludge blanket yet.

My thought is to continue with Superbugs. I wish they would have been available 20 years ago.

The sludge was analyzed for content. It has significant levels of N, P, & K. For further information on that, Chris should be able to give some insight. Nothing is out of line with where it should be. Unfortunately, in some areas and times, this sludge would have value, but not here.

Put together your questions and send them to me mike.hoops@ttosc.org and I’ll get some answers.

STEWART RIVER PROJECT

Voss reported that the project was dropped from the list of projects under consideration for congressionally directed spending requests.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Email regarding congressionally directed spending request from Senator Klobuchar’s office.
- Email regarding congressionally directed spending request from Senator Smith’s office.
- Three notices of public hearings for land use issues.
- Legislature Update letter from Minnesota Association of Townships regarding efforts to get more funding dedicated for roads.
- District 10 Meeting notice from Minnesota Association of Townships.
- Two Affidavit of Postings were signed. One of these was for an advertisement for sale of the old printer that was run in the North Shore Journal. There have been no calls of inquiries or offers. The Clerk was authorized to dispose of the ten-year-old machine.
- Email regarding Board of Appeal training now open for online training, sent from Lake County Assessor, Gregg Swartwoudt. Hull stated that he will plan to complete this training.
- Lake County Property Tax System Statement of Remittance in the amount of \$ 231,987.80.
- Email regarding 2023 Town Aid amounts from Kristie Strum at Minnesota Property Tax Division explaining why the Town’s 2023 amount is only about half the 2022 amount.
- Email to the haulers from Mike Hoops regarding riprap going into the pond.

OLD BUSINESS

Reconvene Annual Meeting – The Board viewed and considered the 2023 levy amounts approved at the Annual Meeting. In spite of high inflation, there was no interest expressed in raising the levy. The levy will be finalized in the Regular meeting in two weeks.

Cemetery Dispute – Oftedahl reported that there has been no communication from the parties.

NEW BUSINESS

Ukulele Festival Preparation – A checklist of preparation was viewed. Hull agreed to bring firewood and it was agreed to use the Town's fire ring. Bear covers for the dumpster were discussed as the festival is 5 days. Reineccius will be doing the preparation as Thompson will be on vacation.

Newsletter story approval – The Draft newsletter was not yet available but stories for the September issue will be approved in two weeks at the Regular Meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

Election Preparation – The Board Meeting Room will be used for next week's Primary Election. The Clerk requested help with moving the large tables out of the room and ensuring the parking lot is empty for that day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, August 16th, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk