

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
March 7, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday March 7, 2023 in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

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

Absent: Chris Jaeger

Visitors Present: Allen Anderson.

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns

The Board discussed a request by Bob Steffes to connect to sewer. He apparently lives on Valhalla and would like to know if the CDSSD Sewer can be run down his road. Voss said he believed that those residents had declined to connect back when CDSSD was being built. Hull said it would take a majority of the owners on that road to agree to pay for it. Steffes will be directed to come to a meeting if he wishes to pursue it further.

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported that he has been working in the shop on new fenders for the small equipment trailer. He said that Thompson has been replacing mailboxes. He also brought up concerns with the diesel tanks running out and NSOP taking a long time to come and deliver fuel. Our propane tank also ran out, and it took some doing to get them to fill it right away. It had to be tested for leaks by state law. The group discussed the pros and cons of installing NSOP's monitoring system.

Gravel Pit – Hull said he spoke to Russ Conrow and that he asked what we needed with regard to the waiver of the reclamation bond. Reineccius reported that he is still trying to burn off brush. He also reported that the snowmobile trail and state trail are being moved off Kevin Hudson's property and therefore may cross our property near the gravel pit.

Lake County Highway Strike – Hull reported that the workers voted to accept Lake County's offer, so there was no longer a strike planned.

General Sewer Operations

The Wastewater Operator Report was viewed. Reineccius reported he is going to re-take the Wastewater exam this Thursday in St. Cloud. Voss reported speaking to Operator Hoops about future dredging expenses and said that it is not known whether it would need one or two million gallons dredged.

Repair of Lift Stations – The Board expressed frustration that we spent so much money fixing an old pump that will need replacement soon. The outer casings of the two pumps (including this one) have deteriorated over time due to sewer fumes.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that Bollig is in the process of applying for congressionally directed federal funding for the project.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Notification of direct deposit of Taconite Tax funds – the same amount as this time last year.
- Notification of direct deposit of Road Allotment (Gas Tax) funds – \$18,000 compared to \$26,000 last year.
- Letter from Jason DiPiazza, Lake County Highway Department asking for certification of Town Road miles used for road allotment funds. Voss signed the certification.
- MAT Newsletter.
- Affidavit of Posting of Township Election and Annual Meeting was signed.
- 3 Land Use Applications from Lake County were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

Personnel Reviews – Hull reported completing Reineccius' review. Oftedahl will do Anderson's review. Reineccius requested that Hull do Thompson's review.

NEW BUSINESS

Wastewater Rates and Preparation for Rate Hearing – The Board reviewed the rate calculator spreadsheet. With a \$170,000 budget, the calculator formula comes up with a rate of \$16.35 per thousand. This budget is a 6% increase over last year. The Board debated the \$2 increase in the residential rate calculated by the formula. That small increase in the residential rate doesn't amount to much – so it might be preferable to make up that amount using good management. It was noted that an \$8,000 connection fee is also expected this year from a new house. The commercial rate calculated by the formula resulted in 3 accounts with lower monthly payments, and 3 with increases, due to last year's metered water use. After discussion, the Board felt comfortable with the calculated commercial rates.

Annual Meeting Planning – The Board discussed the speeches and reviewed the agenda. Recognition for Jaeger was considered. Reineccius said he would be there to do the Road Report. Oftedahl asked if the sewer room could be used by the Judges for counting of ballots during the annual meeting. Reineccius agreed to that.

Mowing Contract – Oftedahl reported that a call was made to Mark Wycoff to request an estimate for seasonal mowing. Wycoff has not yet called back.

PENDING BUSINESS

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk