

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
June 14, 2022

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday June 14, 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 Oftedah!; Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson (by phone), Town Operations Assistant Paul Thompson and Wastewater Operator Mike Hoops.

Absent: Town Operations Manager Jody Reineccius

Visitors Present: Dale Moe and Alan Anderson from the Two Harbors Ukulele Group

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSTITUENT CONCERNS

Ukulele Club – Dale Moe said that the Club received the Town's letter regarding camping concerns and that they have removed camping from their website. He said that they would do their best to comply with the letter (which requested no more than 4 campers). He said there is a shortage of camping across the area. Parking or camping near the fire pond was also discussed along with the need to keep enough space along the road for a fire truck if necessary.

Beaver Valley Road – The Board discussed a call received for assistance from residents on Beaver Valley Road. Silver Creek is not the road authority there. Hull explained that this is not likely to ever become a Silver Creek Township Road due to the road running through Silver Bay and Beaver Bay Township prior to entering Silver Creek. The group discussed the poor quality of that road and its lack of legal easements. Hull suggested that they would be best off forming a Homeowner's Association.

Road and Safety – Thompson reported that road grading is in progress. He said chloride was applied to campground roads in Silver Bay and Gooseberry. A culvert on Aspen Road was repaired and test holes were dug at the Township pit property with promising results. They will be having the grader shims repaired by Jeff Foley once the remaining parts arrive. He and Reineccius had pressure washed the Pavilion and mopped the stage. Thompson reported that Reineccius wants to add trees at the Cemetery and asked the Board for suggestions on what type of trees to plant.

Disaster Preparation – The group discussed the need to have location by GPS, photos and measurements of damage after any storm that might be an emergency designation. The Clerk was asked to look into either Lake County's phone app or another phone app for Reineccius and Thompson and to develop a checklist for use with major weather events.

New Tandem Axle Truck – Thompson said our new truck is on the line being built and should be coming soon.

Sale of 2012 Dodge – Thompson reported that while we were too late for several local auctions this summer, Reineccius suggested the online auction Do-bid.com. They allow a minimum bid to be set, and they manage the sale, but they take 8% of the sale price. Jaeger reported that his contact at Burnsville Dodge recommended a company called Ryan Wholesale. Jaeger and Reineccius will continue working on this project.

General Sewer Operations – Operator Hoops presented his report and noted issues with the construction projects. Christensen's parcels may not connect after all and two of the others have not paid so their materials have not been ordered. There is a long supply chain delay for pumps and control panels that will make it tough to get connections done this year.

Stewart River Wastewater Project – Voss reported that the congressional spending requests were raised to 15.3 million. He said the only chance for state bonding funds would be if a special session for the legislature is called.

Correspondence – The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Letter from Spott Law Office regarding family cemetery dispute.

- Application and permit issued for new driveway access on Loop Road.
- Notice of changes to Truth in Taxation law that will result in more information about the levy sent to taxpayers and increased cost that will be charged to the Township for the new law.
- Two signed Hall Rental Agreements were circulated.
- Letter from Clerk to Gooseberry State Park with estimate for cost of applying chloride to roads.
- Executed copies of the new septage contract with Superior Septic and Larson Septic.
- Membership cards from Minnesota Association of Townships.
- Letter from the State Demographer estimating 2021 population of Silver Creek at 1227.
- Letter from DOT regarding bicycle routes and asking for any suggestions to route changes using existing roads.
- 2 notices of Public Hearings for Land Use Issues from Lake County.

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery Dispute – The Board looked at a page from the 1970 Clerk’s Register showing the family paid \$23 to the Cemetery Fund that year. It did not indicate the number of plots purchased. However, three family members were buried implying that eight were purchased. Back then the cemetery plots were sold as deeded property, so Oftedahl went to the County Recorder’s Office, but found nothing registered for that name. The Board also reviewed a letter from the sister’s attorney suggesting that the remaining 3 plots should go to the eldest child. Currently the Board is waiting to hear a response to Town’s letter sent to family members last month.

Printer Purchase – Oftedahl spoke of research done and suggested that a printer/copier/scanner of the same or better capabilities as the current one is needed. Although fewer copies are being run, scanning of documents is being used more often and the machine needs to be able to scan multi page documents quickly. She noted that the run cost of toners is just as important as the purchase price. Our current 10-year-old printer costs about \$900 per year in toners. The printers under review would be closer to \$23 per month with a maintenance contract. A document showing models was presented. Some information is still being collected. Jaeger stated the importance of quality equipment. Hull said that he trusted Oftedahl and Anderson to make the choice and not to make a spurious decision.

NEW BUSINESS

Frontline Worker Bonus Pay Notification – A notification to all Township employees of their possible eligibility for Frontline Worker Bonus Pay was viewed. Employees must go online to apply if they wish.

Insurance Policy Changes – The Board reviewed the Town’s Insurance. Two changes were suggested: first to increase the coverage on Reineccius’ mini that is rented by the Town, and second to increase the Treasurer & Clerk Bond to better match the Town’s average bank balance. The Board will decide on these suggestions next week when costs are available.

Cemetery Directory Update – Oftedahl reported contacting Waldo Signworks to provide an estimate for updating the Cemetery Directory sign. The Directory has not been updated since 2019. The estimate has not yet been received.

Reschedule of Meetings – Two COW meetings were inadvertently scheduled on Election days and must be changed. After discussion, the August COW was rescheduled to August 2nd. The November meeting dates were rescheduled to November 15th for the COW, and November 22nd for the November Regular Meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. upon motion Hull, second Voss. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk