

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
May 2, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday May 2, 2023, 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 Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson, Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius; and Wastewater Operator Mike Hoops.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Lake County Assessor Gregg Swartwoudt, and Eric Appelwick of Advanced Utility Solutions.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitor Business

LBAE Prep – Hull introduced the Assessor. Swartwoudt brought a training guide that he gave to new Supervisor Scott Krech. He reminded the Board that the burden of proof of incorrect assessment is on the property owner. The assessments came from both the prior year's sales and a calculated appreciation rate. He reported that, on average, Lake County properties increased 65% across the past 3 years. He said that this has been driven by land values and by properties on the shore. He said things had been fairly quiet and he only knew of a couple individuals planning to attend Silver Creek's LBAE next week, but that many more could show up. After some discussion, Swartwoudt left the meeting.

CDSSD Wastewater – Hoops discussed his Operator's Report, noting that Lift Station 1, Pump 2 is waiting for a rebuild. On Lift Station 2 there is a blown flange gasket needing repair. Hoops then introduced Eric Appelwick who provided his background and offered the services of his company, Advanced Utility Solutions. Employing both licensed operators and electricians, they offer many different types of operational services. For example, they can provide emergency backup only, or they can provide full operational services. They can also mentor and train the Town's own Wastewater Operator. Appelwick worked on the Castle Danger System before when he was with AE2S and he is familiar with it. After some discussion, Chairman Hull suggested that the group consider the needs of the Town at a later time and then obtain a cost estimate. Appelwick then left the meeting.

Constituent Concerns

Photos of damage to Dwight Lind's camper were viewed. Lind felt it happened in Seasonal Storage, however Reineccius did not see how it could have happened. The contract was viewed and states that the Town will not be responsible for any damage. Voss suggested a better inspection when items are placed into storage next year. Hull asked the Clerk to follow up with Lind. Lind is getting a repair estimate.

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported that the grader was serviced yesterday, and road grading is ongoing. He and Paul are making a list of culverts needing repair. He said many trees went down in the wind and that constituents helped clear them. He said there is a recall on the new tandem axle truck to fix an issue where the Check Engine light comes on when it shouldn't. He said most but not all seasonal storage items have been removed from the Pavilion. Reineccius also said he may miss some work or a meeting in May so that he can see his daughter's final softball games of her high school career.

Gravel Pit – Reineccius said that he removed the excavator from the pit and that he created a stacked berm and a pile of washed sand ready for use. Hull reported on the performance bond requirement. He spoke to both Sve and Conrow and said they will be sending necessary wording for a letter that the Town can then write and sign that guarantees the site will be put right after excavation.

General Sewer Operations

Reineccius and Hoops both reported that there is a lot of work to do at the ponds including opening the dripper lines, transferring water from pond to pond, and picking up frost blankets. Voss reported that he asked Bollig whether Castle Danger Wastewater system could be classified C instead of D but has not received an answer yet.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported no change on Stewart River. The group discussed who would attend the Bollig Open House at the brewery and decided that Hull would.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Revised forms – For Township Elections, a revised Judge's Summary Statement and Abstract form for Supervisor's signatures were reviewed. The Clerk explained the purpose of the updates -- to simplify things for the judges; to add a line in case a write-in candidate wins; and to clarify the difference between the two forms. Oftedahl reported she received approval from Lake County Election officials for the new forms.
- An email from Matt Pollmann at Lake County regarding the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update was viewed. It states that all city governments within the County must participate. The Clerk was chosen to attend these meetings.
- MAT newsletter.
- 2 signed Hall Rental Agreements for June.
- Email from MN Rural Water Association about deadline for the PFAS Cost Recovery Program.
- 1 Conditional Use Permit application and 1 approved Interim Use Application from Lake County.

OLD BUSINESS

US Bank Signatories/Gordon Variance – Voss reported he and Pellman needed a motion before they could change signatures at US Bank. However, Hull suggested we rethink this and try to get the enforcement of this variance switched over to Lake County since Silver Creek is no longer the zoning authority. The Clerk was asked to contact Christine McCarthy.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Attorney – An expected visit from Attorney Daniel Doda did not occur.

MATIT Insurance – Hull reported a call from Jim Fisher who was our District 10 Representative for many years until forced to resign. Many concerns with MAT and MATIT have recently come to light. These include MATIT's loss of \$870,000 in premiums; their decision not to make a claim to recover this loss; reported plans to raise each Township's premium 10% per year for five years; allegations of illegally using association funds for a personal lawsuit; the kicking out of all Norman County Townships from the association; and pressure placed on all MAT Board members to always agree with the Executive Director. Hull and Voss both plan to try to learn more at our District 10 meeting – Hull will attend in person and Voss will attend via Zoom. The group discussed whether the Town should continue to purchase insurance from MATIT and/or continue their MAT membership or cancel both.

PENDING BUSINESS

Road Tour – The Board asked Thompson via text message if he could drive everyone. He agreed. Reineccius said that he and Thompson will cook lunch for everyone that day. Oftedahl will bring bars and some salad.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk