

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday September 12, 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; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Al Svir (arrived 7:52 p.m.)

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

Constituent Concerns

Hull reported a complaint from Gerald Linden about the \$500 Perpetual Maintenance fee charged for family monuments, and whether he was the only one to have ever been charged this fee. He was the first and had paid it more than ten years ago. This fee was not required in later versions of cemetery regulations, but the plot price was raised for everyone. Linden wanted a refund. Hull let him know that he was not the only person to ever pay that fee. Because those were the rules at the time, there will not be a refund.

Annual Meeting

Hull explained that we inadvertently failed to re-open the Annual Meeting last month. He explained the necessity to do so prior to sending in the Levy Certification letter to the County, and, that the County deadline is in the next week. Hull then recessed the current meeting and reconvened the Annual Meeting at 6:36 p.m. After viewing the levy numbers on the overhead screen, motion Voss, second Krech, to adopt the \$440,000 levy, without any changes, as presented to and approved by constituents at the March Annual Meeting (included below). Motion carried unanimously.

2024 Levy:

General	\$44,000
Road & Bridge	\$275,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$25,000
Fire	\$45,000
Cemetery	\$2,500
General Debt Service	<u>\$28,500</u>
TOWN TOTAL LEVY	\$440,000

Motion Hull, second Voss to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 6:41 pm. Carried unanimously.

Road and Safety:

Reineccius reported the salt-sand is here; new gravel was added to Alger Grade; road grading is in progress and Loop Road was done today. All roadside mowing is done, but there is more brushing of ditches that he wants to do.

Rental of Tractor/Mower – Reineccius reported that Beaver Bay wants to rent the tractor and mower from Silver Creek for 20 hours. The Board agreed that if they rent it out to other governments, they would charge \$100 per hour plus consumables for the machine only and the operator must be approved by Silver Creek.

Cummins Extended Protection Plan – Purchase of an extended warranty for the new tandem axle truck was discussed and there was agreement that the price of the protection plan was reasonable.

Trench Boxes – Reineccius reported that after investigation, he does not believe the process for obtaining the OSHA grant will be worth it and we may not have a qualifying project. He can borrow a trench box from either the City of Silver Bay or City of Two Harbors. He spoke about the importance of purchasing a gas meter. The Board agreed. Payment will come from the Sewer fund.

Pavilion repairs – Reineccius reported that floor and door repairs were completed and thanked Anderson for her work in painting the doors.

General Sewer Operations

Reineccius reported that the dripper lines were brushed.

At this point, (7:00 p.m.) Hull declared the meeting closed and the recording was stopped for the purpose of hearing a personnel issue.

The meeting was then re-opened at 7:15 p.m. and the recording resumed.

New Installs – The tank for the Rostvold project will be installed soon.

Operator Outsource – Voss reported his decision to select Eric Appelwick after interviewing both Appelwick and Mike Miller. Reineccius said that working with Appelwick is going well – they met last week and will meet again tomorrow. The contract signed with Advanced Utility Services will be officially approved in next week's meeting.

Arndt Fence and Easement – Hull has not spoken to the Arndts, and he asked Voss to follow up as it is a sewer issue and because he is going to be gone on vacation.

Grease at Lift Station 1 – Reineccius reported that grease from the Rustic Restaurant is harming Lift Station 1. He spoke to the Assistant Manager about it. Hull provided history on the issue and asked the Clerk to look for details in the records. The Board felt that a letter to the new owner is needed.

Constituent Concern with Cemetery – Al Svir arrived at the meeting with a question. He asked about his mother's cemetery plot. She was worried after reading the newsletter that her cemetery plot would be repossessed as it was purchased in the seventies and is still vacant and unused. He was assured that the Town would not be repossessing the lot.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported no changes to this project.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Email from Jeremy Kershaw asking about parking along Alger Grade during the Heck of the North Bike Race. Due to safety concerns Hull and Reineccius refused this request.
- Email with the Cummins Extended Protection Plan showing a cost of \$5,320.
- Email from Lake County Auditor showing the second half of Taconite receipts - \$35,933.
- Email from MATIT with the insurance policy schedule showing changes on the building values approved in last month's meeting.
- Levy Certification Letter for approval to be sent to Lake County.
- Form from Lake County confirming information for the Truth in Taxation notices to be sent to the public.
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement was reviewed.
- 3 Approved Land Use Applications and 1 Hearing Notice from Lake County were reviewed.
- *FAQ's about MAT Recent Events* document from the District 10 Meeting – presented by Voss.
- Copy of authorization form submitted to MPCA for Eric Appelwick to submit reports for Castle Danger Wastewater.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance – Hull reported that he ran into John Acheson of Hamilton Monroe. He suggested having them provide a competitive insurance quote to the Town. The issue of price versus quality of coverage was briefly discussed. Hull then asked Treasurer Pellman, who had stopped into the office next door, to look at our current insurance policy and compare coverages with the quote we got from Harbor Insurance and the one we are trying to get from Hamilton Monroe.

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Pipe Caps – Hull suggested that a guy he knows who is serving community service be used to help with installing the pipe caps. Anderson reported that there are three different sized pipes making it hard to select pipe caps and get a cost estimate.

Cemetery Policy – The Board looked at the new version of the Cemetery Regulations and there were no questions. It will be voted upon next week.

Picnic Table Donation – The Board viewed a photo of two picnic tables being donated by Kyle Soderberg. A Resolution to Accept Donation for the tables will be voted upon next week.

Gordon Variance – Hull reported that the Town will have to maintain the Certificate of Deposit for enforcement of this variance. The issue will be resolved once the deck is removed or if both parties move away or become deceased. A resolution naming Pellman and Oftedahl as signers, was viewed and discussed. This will be voted upon next week.

PENDING BUSINESS

Seasonal Storage – Dates for drop-off and pick-up of seasonal storage items were set for Oct 21st and April 20th. Rates were not discussed.

MAT District 10 Meeting – Voss had attended the meeting and presented a summary:

- It was suggested that town email addresses be changed to *.gov*.
- The 2023 Local Road Improvement Program opens today for potential projects.
- Kevin Cornick was voted in as our new District 10 Representative.
- MAT said that they have approximately 20 million dollars in an investment account.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. upon motion Krech, second Voss. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk