

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 16, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present were Supervisors: Chuck Voss, Greg Hull, and Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Treasurer Shelly Peterson; Town Operations Assistant Paul Thompson, and Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Visitors Present: Tom Opfer

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:

Oftedahl reported the following communications from the public:

Mary Gerard called about her sewer installation (update below).

Shirly Ness came into the office today to say she had scraped her car on the Cemetery gates. Thompson said it was very minimal and the Town would not be charging her.

Jane Ahment called to thank Thompson and compliment the road repair on Alger Grade.

Chris Mellum called for assistance in locating an off-duty police officer for the wedding they are having at the Historic Hall in late August. She is not having luck finding anyone. Hull said he knew a couple retired officers who might be willing to work the event.

ROAD & SAFETY:

Facilities Manager – Voss reported that Reineccius resigned this morning. He asked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to report what happened. Oftedahl reported that Reineccius came into the Clerk's office this morning around 10:30 a.m. while Anderson and Oftedahl were working, said he was done with the Township, and turned in all his keys, and left abruptly. Hull reported on his efforts to meet with Reineccius later (this afternoon) at 4:30 for the purpose of receiving Town equipment and tools that were at Reineccius' home and to give him his personal property from the Town garage. Reineccius did not show up for the meeting. The Clerk reported that the timesheet was blank. The Board directed the Clerk's Office to hold final pay until all Town property is returned. After these discussions, motion Voss, second Hull to accept the verbal resignation of Reineccius. Motion carried unanimously. An immediate go-forward plan was discussed. Motion Hull, second Voss to name Paul Thompson the Interim Town Operations and Facilities Manager and to pay him at the same pay rate that Reineccius has been earning. Motion carried unanimously. And, motion Hull, second Voss to work On-Call Operator James (Louie) Larsen as many hours as needed, even full time if necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

Chloride for Alden Township – Thompson will be talking to Jim Ward to let him know that our chloride truck needs some repairs and so we may or may not be able to provide dust control for them this year.

Beaver Dam Culvert on Alger – Thompson put a grate over the culvert. There is still material stuck in the middle of the pipe but currently water is low in the culvert. Next steps were discussed by the group.

Press Camp Culvert Fix – Thompson reported researching solutions. The two culverts on this road are extremely large and to replace them would involve closing the road. He is talking to Lake County about best solutions and a possible partnership.

Gravel Crushing – Purchase is on hold.

DOT Tags – Thompson applied them to all rigs.

Dodge Repair – The invoice for replacement of the fuel system in the 2021 Dodge totalling \$20,572.24 was reviewed and discussed. Deisel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) in the fuel tank and system was discovered during repairs. The group felt either there was vandalism or internal mechanical failure that caused it. Motion Krech, second Voss to pay this repair and to follow up on the recall that was the reason the truck was parked outside. Motion carried unanimously.

Tractor Repair – The quote for \$21,602.32 to replace the transmission in the tractor was discussed at length. After discussion, motion Hull, second Voss to move ahead with the quoted repairs and to also check the hydraulic system and fix it if necessary. Krech voted Nay. Motion carried on (2-1 vote).

Diesel – The type of diesel in the town pumps and whether there were any problems with it was discussed. The group did not feel that our diesel had any connection to the truck problems.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

Licensed Operator – It was noted that this month's MPCA reporting has not been completed by Reineccius to our knowledge. A licensed Operator will be needed ASAP. Motion Hull, second Voss to empower Chairman Voss to negotiate a contract with Eric Appelwick and Advanced Utility Solutions for a minimum of one year to operate Silver Creek's Castle Danger Wastewater Treatment system. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no Wastewater Operator's Report this month.

Gerard Project – Thompson reported that this is done except for waiting for Frontier to fix a phone line that was damaged during the excavation. He has communicated with Mark Gerard. Their call was concerning ruts left around the grinder station and whether the Town would be fixing them.

Rostvold Project – Thompson said he plans to test the line for this new install to make sure it works and doesn't repeat the problem experienced at Gerard's.

Repair of Lift Stations – Both pumps in the lift station should be working well now – Mike Nelson replaced the faulty one.

Charge for Gravel at Sewer – Not discussed.

STEWART RIVER SEWER:

Voss had not heard anything, but a letter was received about congressional funding. Our project was dropped from the House bill list but remains on the list for the Senate bill.

REVIEW MINUTES:

Motion Hull, second Voss to accept as presented the 6/18 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion Voss, second Krech to accept as presented the 7/9 Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes. Both motions carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Peterson as follows: TOSC checking: \$37,315.33 and TOSC savings: \$517,141.14 for a total of \$554,456.47. Outstanding checks totaled \$1,006.24 for a CTAS balance: \$553,450.23. Motion Hull, second Krech to accept the June Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Voss, second Krech to authorize the requested transfer of \$91,000 from savings to checking. Both motions carried unanimously. The Board reviewed fund balances and it was noted that the first half of the levy was received after the June 30 cut off of this Treasurer's report.

READING OF THE BILLS:

The current month's bills were read: claims 10230-10266, totaling \$66,848.79, and payrolls through July 19th. It was noted that in addition to the \$20,000 repair bill, this month also included chloride, diesel, and \$10,000 of vehicle and building insurance. Motion Voss, second Krech, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board considered the following:

- Email letter from Anna (Smith) McCloskey of Tina Smith's office regarding our request for Congressionally Directed Spending for the Stewart River Project.
- Email from Matt Pollmann regarding FEMA being in the region this week for flood damage review, and requesting that any information on damaged homes be sent to him.
- 1 approved Interim Use Application from Lake County was reviewed.
- 3 Approved Land Use Applications from Lake County were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Historic Hall – No change.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election Judge Approval – Motion Hull, second Voss to approve the following Judges for the next two elections: Phil Sigge, Deb Cooter, Julia Jaeger, Jan Brenaman.

Cemetery Gate Signs – No change.

Facility Repairs – Rassmussen will be looking at the water pump. And an AC repairman will be called for the Office..

PENDING BUSINESS:

None.

There being no further business, motion Voss, second Krech to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday August 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk