

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday February 13, 2024, 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; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: None

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

Constituent Concerns

Hull reported one complaint about Alger Grade. Solutions were discussed.

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported that roads couldn't really be improved currently due to freezing temperatures. The ruts are frozen in. He said that it has been good for brushing and Larsen has been brushing the right-of-way along Alger Grade. He reported receiving the new sweeper attachment and testing it out – it works well. He also said he had to make repairs last week to the skid steer. He said new tires were applied to the grader. Finally he reported that Thompson is out on bereavement and Larsen is out sick.

General Sewer Operations

Operator Reineccius reviewed his Operator's Report (to be included in Regular Minutes). The group discussed calibration of pump measurements. Reineccius has done 3 draw-down tests with a Minnesota Rural Water technician.

End of Year Operator Report – The group discussed the low number for influent for November 2024 after Appelwick recalibrated and changed the formula. It was half the number of gallons of the prior year for that month. But the entire year was down compared to 2022.

Rostvold Tank– Reineccius reported meeting with Voss at the house. Going forward there will be contractor requirements for the connection pipe for sewer to avoid issues with installations.

Callouts – There were 2 callouts to Frischmann's and the panel levels had to be reset. Jaeger's had a callout for a frozen system based upon their being out of town.

Surveys – The Clerk reported not having had time to search for any other surveyors available to do surveys for Utility Easements.

Lift Station 1 – Tim from SyCom came and reset alarms. Things seem to be working well at the moment.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that he has not heard anything.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- MAT dues statement.
- Letter from Lake County Engineer Jason DiPiazza regarding specific recommendations for Town Road Bridge including monitoring and load rating it.
- Email response from Clerk back to Natalie Lavenstein regarding recycling and composting community meeting possibilities.
- Report from Lake County's Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting. Anderson attended the meeting. There is grant funding for the mitigation of potential threats such as flooding, etc. Silver Creek is not required to attend but may adopt the County plan if desired.
- Letter from St. Louis County regarding NOAA Grant meeting.
- Remittance statement from Lake County of levy payments (the last of last year's) totaling \$24,892.89.
- Bank letter of credit for Town bank account.

- Pledging reports for Town bank account.
- Email from MPCA confirming that Mike Hoops has been removed as the contact for the Wastewater System permit.
- Quarterly report from Nationwide on performance of employee deferred compensation plan.
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement.
- 4 Affidavit of Postings for election notices and sample ballots.
- 1 Hearing Notice and 2 Approved Land Use Applications from Lake County were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

Absentee Ballot Board – Motion Hull, second Voss to approve the Absentee Ballot Board Judges: Debbie Cooter, Michelle Backes-Fogelberg, Phil Sogge, Jan Brenamon. This motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Audit – Three rounds of disbursement ledger and receipt ledger reports used to match Clerk and Treasurer CTAS (books) were passed around the table. The Board also viewed full year Treasurer and Clerk Cash Control Reports and the December Bank statement showing that they matched each other and the bank. Motion to accept the books will be called at next week's regular meeting.

Proposed Budget/Levy – The Board reviewed the budget and levy developed at last week's working meeting. Krech questioned the levy amount for the Cemetery. The Clerk questioned the levy amount for the General fund. The group discussed increased PILT funds and that for 2024 only \$55,000 of Taconite was budgeted, but we expect to receive closer to \$75,000 so it is believed that the General fund won't dip too low. With regard to sewer budget and numbers, the total pumped sewer as well as commercial water usage via meter readings was still being reviewed to ensure there were no errors with the numbers. The Clerks plan to have the sewer rate calculation worksheet available next meeting. The Rate Hearing is not until April.

Newsletter – A draft was considered; more stories are needed. The proposed bike trail on Silver Creek property was discussed as well as adding a story about the new sweeper.

PENDING BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Planning – Hull requested that each Supervisor plan to speak for 3 minutes on their area of responsibility.

Election Planning – Oftedahl reported plans to use the Board Meeting Room for both the Presidential Primary and the Township Election if there were no objections. None were voiced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, February 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk