

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday February 11, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Chuck Voss, Greg Hull and Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Paul Thompson and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: None

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

### **Constituent Concerns**

Hull reported that Nate Eide from County Forestry would like to borrow the Town's steamer to clear a culvert out near God's Wilderness Road. Thompson and Hull agreed it might be something to assist with in spring but won't work right now as things will simply freeze again right away.

### **Road and Safety**

Thompson reported that since last meeting they have plowed several times. In addition, he fixed the steamer – it is as good as new. He also fixed the quick release on the skid steer, and had Nightwine fix cracks in the 10-foot plow.

Tractor Repair – Thompson reported that Lulich doesn't expect to receive the backordered part until March, and they will repair the tractor then.

### **General Sewer Operations**

The Board viewed Operator Appelwick's report (filed in Office).

Lift Station 1 – Appelwick's report stated that after changes to settings, the number of times the pump is starting per day was cut in half.

Grease Problems – Appelwick's report stated that the restaurant has agreed to increase pumping of their grease traps and to investigate chemically treating the grease.

### **Stewart River Wastewater Project**

Voss reported that he will be working to get letters of support from Commissioner Sve and others as requested by Bollig Engineering for their next attempt to secure funding.

### **Correspondence**

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Email from Jason DiPiazza stating that bridge safety inspections were completed.
- A copy of Ben Oliver's CUP application to Lake County for an RV Park was received. His email stated that he would send Silver Creek's sewer application once his sewer system has been designed.
- Email from Lake County Planning and Zoning stating that Oliver's Hearing is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Email from Oftedahl to 2025 Supervisor Candidates inviting a short statement in the Newsletter in the "Meet the Candidates" section.
- Email from Hamiton Monroe clarifying that the Cyber Insurance policy period is one year with a January 15<sup>th</sup> renewal date. It confirmed that the Town did pay twice in 2024 because the due date for the invoice fell prior to the January 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting, requiring a check to be signed at the December meeting.
- Letter from USDA.gov requesting Silver Creek publish and post information about Section 504 repair loan/grant program.
- 2 Affidavits of Posting for Township Election notices were signed.
- MN Association of Townships January Newsletter was reviewed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Historic Hall – Thompson said that he researched what it takes to get a building designated as a Minnesota Historical Site. He said that some type of significant event has to have happened there. Krech said he was planning to speak to someone at the Historical Society. But, he also said that he had looked into estimates for the tear down of the Hall.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board of Audit – Both Clerk and Treasurer Receipt and Disbursement Ledger Reports showing all transactions from 2024 were reviewed. The December Bank Statement and Cash Control Reports from both Clerk and Treasurer were viewed and did match each other and the bank statement. The Treasurer was not at the meeting but had sent an email certifying that the Treasurer's CTAS had been reconciled with the Clerk's and that Oftedahl, Peterson and Anderson met in person to audit 2024 transactions and key corrections together.

Proposed 2026 Budget and Levy – The Board reviewed the Budget Levy spreadsheet with the numbers developed at last week's working meeting. The 2026 levy total that came out of the meeting was \$475,000 - a 4% increase from 2025. They also viewed a summary that will be used at the Annual Meeting to propose the levy and discussed the process. No changes to numbers were made.

Sewer Rates – Although the Rate Hearing is not until April, commercial accounts are normally mailed a record of their usage with the proposed rate so that they will have time to react. Voss and Oftedahl were asked to calculate proposed rates based upon budget and usage and to bring those numbers to the full Board either next week or to the March COW.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

Absentee Voting – Oftedahl reported that she spent time on the 90-page Absentee Voting Guide and created training materials based upon there being no training program from either the County or the State. She had Lola Haus from Lake County come to the office and approve the training program. And, the Clerk's Office has sent 22 ballots to the "Permanent Absentee" list received from the County. A voting booth is up in the Board room and both Absentee and Early Voting are now open.

Newsletter – The draft newsletter was reviewed. The Board requested that a story be added on financial assistance available to low-income residents for home heating or repair.

Annual Meeting Planning – Suggestions for a moderator were discussed. Oftedahl planned to ask Laura Kleive and Krech agreed to ask Dick Bohr.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. upon motion Hull, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk