

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday November 14, 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; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius and Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Constituent Concerns**

Hull reported that he received a call from the resident at 3001 Clark Road, asking the Town to work on the drainage of the township road near her driveway. Reineccius said he would take care of it.

### **Road and Safety**

Road Report – Reineccius reported that Thompson was in the process of grading all roads this week.

Town Road Bridge Rip Rap – Reineccius reported that rip rap was set at the bridge. He said he has an idea for the problem beam that he wants to discuss with County Engineer John Schlagen.

Sweeper – The Town will receive a new sweeper from the John Deere CAT dealer in exchange for the trade-in of the skid steer mower. There will be no cash exchanged.

Ringold Internet Line – Reineccius reported talking to Ringold regarding trenching through E Castle Danger Road to install the fiber optic internet line. Reineccius told him that this is not the time of year to trench. The Town's lack of a policy or utility easement was discussed and Reineccius was asked to look into what Lake County has for a utility easement.

### **General Sewer Operations**

Reineccius reported that he passed the Class C Wastewater exam, and everyone had cake to celebrate. He said there is more paperwork through MPCA before he can officially be the town's licensed operator. He then reported that the pond water transfer was done, and that lines were blown out in preparation for winter.

New Installs – Reineccius reported that they have rented the electrofusion machine and will complete all work currently possible on the new sewer connections tomorrow.

Operator's Report – Appelwick's report was viewed. Questions were raised about the sharp drop off in influent in October given it was still a very busy tourist month. The Operator's report will be included in Regular minutes.

Lift Station 1 and Grease – Reineccius said that the problem seems slightly better, but it could just be the reduced flow with the end of the fall tourism season. Testing is underway according to Reineccius to double check the source of the grease. In looking at Appelwick's report of this issue, the Board questioned who will pay for the bugs and cleaning of Rustic's filters. Voss asked if the filters were cleaned and Reineccius said they were not. The group questioned whether the Town would clean their filters or whether Rustic should do that. Appelwick was supposed to bring up his power washer and has not done so. Appelwick's report suggested that a power washer be purchased. Krech suggested that the Town not take on that responsibility.

Arnt Fence– Voss reported a good meeting with Arndt. The fence has removable panels for access to the grinder station and will have a viewing window to make the alarm lights visible from outside. He asked Reineccius to mark the right height for the viewing window to be cut in the fence.

### **Stewart River Wastewater Project**

Voss did not have a report from Bollig.

### **Correspondence**

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Town's invoice to Beaver Bay Township for mower rental and payment receipt for same.

- Town's invoice to Grand Superior Lodge for sewer tank lid replacement and payment receipt for same.
- MAT notice of grants for climate change adaptation.
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement for Yoga in the Board Meeting Room in November.
- Park State Bank collateralization of Town Bank Accounts.
- Bank form auditing the handling of ACH banking data by Clerk's Office.
- Letter from MN Rural Water stating that onsite technical assistance can be provided free of charge for all members.
- Handwritten note from Liz Herrington thanking us for the FOG letter included in the residential sewer billing.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Insurance – Hull reported hearing from John Acheson of Hamilton Monroe, who said that they are not able to beat MATIT's premium rate. He said they might be able to beat the Worker's Compensation rate if the Town wished to separate that.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Township Election Designation – Next week the polling hours and location of absentee voting for the March Township Election must be declared by motion.

MN Safe and Sick Law – All staff currently receive sick (or PTO) leave except for the On-Call Operator and elected officials (who are not eligible). Oftedahl reported that the Town will have to allow Larson to accrue either sick or PTO time. In further discussion, many questions were raised regarding requirements for the carryover and/or payout of unused hours. Oftedahl was asked to read the MOU's and do some research on this.

Electronic vs Paper Retention – The Clerk found that backing files up to an external hard drive from the virtual Microsoft One Drive is so slow as to be time prohibitive. More research is needed to determine if we can eliminate the paper.

#### **PENDING BUSINESS**

Newsletter Story Approval – An unfinished draft of the newsletter was reviewed. A more final draft will be ready for next week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk