

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 18, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present were Supervisors: Greg Hull, Chuck Voss, and Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedah!; Treasurer Jamie Pellman; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius; and Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Chris Belfield from Two Harbors Radio.

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

**CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:**

Chris Belfield gave an informational presentation on the expansion of the Two Harbors public radio station. They have received a license to expand the radio's broadcast distance 35 miles up the shore and hopefully covering all of Silver Creek. The license to expand expires in 2025. He asked for the support of the Board and asked for assistance in spreading the word because they need more volunteers. Belfield left the meeting after speaking.

**ROAD & SAFETY:**

Road Report – Reineccius reported that the speed sensors in the skid steer are being replaced tomorrow and then it should be up and running. He also reported that a cemetery burial was completed last week.

Tractor Mower Purchase – Reineccius discussed his request for purchase of a used tractor. He located a 1993 New Holland that will come with boom and flail mower for mowing ditches. He has tested it. It is low hours (2,605) with brand new tires, is in good shape, and runs well. He said it would be a smart decision as it has everything we need for mowing ditches, and we've been struggling with that for a while. He also said that Beaver Bay would rent it from us to enable us to offset some of the purchase cost. Crystal Bay Township also used to rent it. Brad Anderson, the seller, is holding it for us. Hull also spoke saying that the tractor is a very good buy. He recounted the many hassles we've had over the years in mowing our ditches. And it is a multi-use machine. He proposed we use \$15,000 from the Capital Improvements account of the Road Fund and use \$10,000 from the Road Enhancement Fund to pay for it. After discussion, motion Hull, second Krech to authorized Reineccius to spend \$25,000 to purchase the 1993 New Holland tractor with boom and flail. Motion carried unanimously.

Part-Time On-Call Employee Hiring – Only one person applied for the position. James Larson has the skills, a commercial driver's license, and years of experience with Lake County. Based upon that, motion Hull, second Voss to approve the MOU and hire James Larsen for the position at a starting wage of \$25 per hour to work approximately 40 hours per month with an effective date of tomorrow. Motion carried unanimously.

**SEWER OPERATIONS:**

Sewer Report – Reineccius reported that Lift Station one was overflowing on Sunday and he and Hoops were there all day. A transformer in the panel had failed. They were able to make a temporary repair on Sunday. Today, Mike Nelson fixed the lift station pipe leak that has been waiting a year. And then, Tim from Sycom will be coming next week to replace the panel to complete the Lift Station 1 repairs. Reineccius said he also applied alum and algaecide to the ponds on Sunday while they were waiting. He will test for his Wastewater Operator license on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Motion Voss, second Krech to accept the Wastewater Operator's Report (included below) noting the updates and addendums vocally presented by the Operations Manager. Carried unanimously.

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Wastewater Operator's Report – July 11, 2023

<b>Influent</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
January	0.4204 million gallons	0.4093 million gallons
February	0.4567 million gallons	0.4485 million gallons
March	0.6321 million gallons	0.4829 million gallons
April	0.8675 million gallons	0.6940 million gallons
May	0.8232 million gallons	0.5420 million gallons

June	0.8657 million gallons	est.	0.8000 million gallons
July	0.9316 million gallons		
August	0.8870 million gallons		
September	0.9317 million gallons		
October	0.6251 million gallons		
November	0.6000 million gallons		
<u>December</u>	<u>0.3881 Million gallons</u>		
<u>Total</u>	<u>8.4291 million gallons</u>		

In addition, during June, there were 120,755 gallons of trucked in septage and greywater. (0.120755 million gallons)

<b>Effluent</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
May – Discharged	3.018 million gallons irrigated	3.040 million gallons irrigated
June – Discharged	2.986 million gallons irrigated	2.687 million gallons irrigated
July - Discharged	4.563 million gallons irrigated to date	1.250 million gallons irrigated
August - Discharged	2.218 million gallons irrigated	
September - Discharged	2.984 million gallons irrigated	
<u>October - Discharged</u>	<u>1.147 million gallons irrigated</u>	
Total for year-	16.916 million gallons irrigated	

### **Current Operations**

Irrigation has been going quite well with the limited rainfall since we started.

Lift Station #1 Tim Kamrath was up to do some work on the system for us and while he was here, we were able to correct the alarms on Lift #1 so that is done. Waiting for Mike Nelson to return with pump and do pipe repairs.

Repairs needed on Lift #2, blown flange gasket, hopefully will replace it when he brings up pump for #1.

Need to calibrate pumps. Hasn't been done for more than a year, MPCA requires calibration twice each year.

Grinder pumps- We had 2 failed pumps this month in the duplex tank over at Gooseberry. Both pumps had been in service for quite some time.

Rostvold and Gerard installations - all parts except actual pumps and panels are ordered or are in stock for the installs. Met with Mark Gerard on site when he was up on Monday to show him what we would be doing. We are ready to move forward on the Rostvold install. Gerard won't happen until there is a pipe coming out of the slab to hook into.

Sampling has been done as required and all reports submitted to MPCA.

### **Pending Maintenance Items**

Calibrate Lift Station #2 pumps. Can't be done until flange gasket is replaced. Calibration was skipped last fall.  
Cut out between pump chambers on duplex stations

Ponds- Fence straightening. Paul did a lot while he was reclaiming gravel but still some to do. Repair ruts in dikes.  
Spraying weeds in riprap-continuing issue with getting moisture

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Hoops, Wastewater Operator

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Rostvold Install – Postponed to next week.

Gerard Install – waiting on construction – DOT right-of-way permit application has been submitted.

Sewer Operator Outsource – Not discussed.

Repair at Lift Station – Done today as discussed above.

### **STEWART RIVER SEWER:**

No updates.

**REVIEW MINUTES:**

Motion Voss, second Hull to accept as presented the 6/20 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion Hull, second Voss to accept as corrected the 7/11 Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes. All motions carried unanimously.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Pellman as follows: TOSC checking: \$45,981.60 and TOSC savings: \$810,609.55 for a total of \$856,591.15. Outstanding checks totaled \$7,145.11 for a CTAS balance: \$849,446.04. Motion Voss, second Hull to accept the June Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion Voss, second Hull to authorize the requested transfer of \$83,000 from savings to checking. Both motions carried unanimously.

**READING OF THE BILLS:**

The current month’s bills were read: claims 9806-9840 totaling \$66,179.16, and payrolls through July 21, 2023. Motion Hull, second Voss, to authorize payment as presented of all bills except for claim 9827 which was held out for discussion of Township insurance farther down the agenda. Carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Board considered the following:

- Notice of Jury Duty for Clerk Oftedahl for three months starting 9/1/23.
- Quarterly statement from Nationwide of investment activity in the Employee Retirement Account.
- Lake County Notice of Decision in Variance Hearing for Lemkes.
- Letter drafted by Clerk to Attorney in regard to the Gordon Variance.
- Right of Interment for Dennis and Janeen Linden was signed

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution for Re-route of Snowmobile Trail – Motion Hull second Voss to adopt *Resolution 2023-5 Authorizing CJ Ramstad/North Shore State Trail to cross Silver Creek Property* (included below). Carried unanimously. Resolution was adopted upon roll-call vote as follows:

Ayes: Chuck Voss, Scott Krech, Greg Hull

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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**RESOLUTION 2023-5  
TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
LAKE COUNTY MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
CJ RAMSTAD / NORTH SHORE STATE TRAIL  
TO CROSS SILVER CREEK PROPERTY  
ALONG EXISTING WILD COUNTY ATV TRAIL**

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**WHEREAS**, a section of the existing CJ Ramstad/ North Shore State Snowmobile Trail must be re-routed due to a dispute with a private landowner; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CJ Ramstad snowmobile trail shares a pathway with Wild Country ATV at either end of the section that must be re-routed;

**WHEREAS**, the MN DNR are requesting that the trail be re-routed along the same path as the Wild Country ATV trail where it crossed Silver Creek town property;

**WHEREAS**, it will be most cost effective, least disruptive and simplest to run the two trails along the same route;

**WHEREAS**, the snowmobile trail benefits the tourism industry as well as providing recreational opportunities to the residents of the Town of Silver Creek;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek hereby authorizes the route proposed and gives permission to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Snowmobile Club to run the trail across Silver Creek property parcel number 29-5410-08190. Permission is also granted to widen the trail to 20 feet wide, to soften the curves, to cut the hillside back in the gravel pit and to place signage for safety.

Adopted on July 18, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory Hull

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Voss

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Krech

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk

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Insurance Project – The Board considered a quote from Harbor Insurance that came in at \$12,500. It came in higher than the current invoice from MATIT, which is \$10,142. In addition to considering just the dollars, the Board considered issues with MATIT. Hull discussed a call he received from MATIT attorney Steve Fenske that made him question some accusations against MATIT that have been made. The Board also considered timing as the current insurance COI is already expired, so there could be a gap if we switch now. MATIT had also sent a letter about replacement values on the buildings. They recommended increasing them which would raise the premium (to be invoiced next month). However, the Board can set the insured replacement value at their desired level, provided they pass a resolution on it. After discussion of these items, Hull suggested it might be wisest to stay with MATIT. Motion Voss, second Krech to approve claim 9827 to pay MATIT for renewal of insurance for another year. Motion carried unanimously.

**PERPETUAL BUSINESS:**

Gordon Variance and US Bank Signatory – Hull explained that several issues were raised by Christine McCarthy regarding the ability to enforce the variance order. The funds are being held for enforcement, but Silver Creek is no longer the zoning authority. A letter has been sent to Attorney Witty to find out the best course of action going forward.

Cemetery – Hull informed the group that we likely need a policy regarding the marking of empty graves. Some people are scattering ashes elsewhere but also would like a stone on a plot. This will be taken up next month. And in following up Jane Wick’s concern from last year, Deputy Clerk Anderson and Supervisor Krech were asked to partner on the project to beautify the water stations.

Historic Town Hall – Hull reported that he now has some reservations on use of the Americorp group regarding quality of work. Krech discussed the possibility of getting some shingles replaced to repair the roof and avoid leaks. Hull suggested that a specific and detailed plan be brought to the meeting for a vote.

There being no further business, motion Voss, second Hull to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk