

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 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 Oftedah; Deputy Treasurer Bobbi Salakka; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius, Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson; and Sewer Operator Eric Appelwick.

Absent: Treasurer Jamie Pellman.

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

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:

Voss reported receiving a call from Jim Rostvold regarding the sewer installation at his new house. He is not happy with the tank sticking out of the ground and is worried about it freezing over the winter. Reineccius said that it has 6 inches of foam over it and will not freeze. It was felt that the true issue was a cosmetic one. Voss said he might go take a look at it.

Krech reported a complaint he received from a resident regarding the number of vacation rentals per neighborhood. As Lake County is the zoning authority, the complaint will need to be taken to them.

ROAD & SAFETY:

Road Report – Reineccius reported that roads are in pretty good shape, and most of them were graded by Thompson prior to the freeze last night. He said he took care of the issue reported at 3001 Clark Road. He said that he and Larsen have been marking culverts with re-rod covered with colored plastic.

Sweeper Purchase – A purchase order from McCoy Construction and Forestry for a John Deere BA84C Angle Broom priced at \$9,500 was reviewed. Motion Hull, second Voss to authorize Reineccius to go ahead and trade in the Eterra Raptor Boom mower in exchange for this sweeper with no cash due. Carried unanimously.

Utility Easement – Reineccius presented Lake County's Utility Easement document and suggested that Silver Creek adopt something similar. This issue was tabled for more review.

Town Road Bridge – Reineccius said that riprap was staged but not placed in the stream and more would have to be done in the spring.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

General Operations – Reineccius reported passing his test and stated that it would help him to have Eric Appelwick continue to work with him for about 6 months as they modernize some of the equipment and processes.

New Installations – Reineccius reported that the connections are completed. Some additional dirt and landscaping work will need to be done in the spring. Neither house is completed yet, so these connections are not yet live.

Arndt Fence – Voss reported no change.

Grease at Rustic – Reineccius reported that the use of grease eating bugs is being tested. He said that restaurant personnel had cleaned the filters. Appelwick later spoke on the importance of finding the best solution at the Town's expense prior to setting any new requirements for the restaurant to follow. He said that the meeting with restaurant personnel was very amicable, and that he and Reineccius were still in the process of finding the best solution.

Operator's Report – Operator Appelwick discussed a variety of topics. He explained that the pump calibrations done with more accurate equipment showed a significantly lower flow than in previous years. The Board asked if this is a problem for the MPCA and he said it is not – an explanation will be submitted to them. He suggested purchase of a portable pressure washer but said he could loan one for now. He discussed several new technologies. Finally, he said our ponds have more sludge in them than any he has ever seen and suggested the cause was the hauled in septage. The group reviewed the 2022 Sludge reports done by Team Lab. Appelwick said nothing has to be done right now, but it will be coming, and the options appear to be either try a more expensive type of bugs now or wait and do dredging at approximately \$100,000.

After these discussions, motion Voss, second Krech to accept the Wastewater Operator's Report (text portion included below). Carried unanimously.



MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT

October 2023/November 2023

November 14, 2023 Board Meeting
Silver Creek Subordinate Sewer District

» OPERATIONS UPDATE

Weekly site visits have been made since the inception of the contract. An updated sampling spreadsheet was dropped off at the ponds' building today. Additionally, lift station #2 was calibrated, measurements were taken of the lift station and labels were placed on the control panel inner door. At the ponds, each transfer structure was measured for water depth from the bottom, water depth from the surface and overall height. The overall heights of each structure were printed as labels and placed on the shelving in the ponds' building.

» OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND ADJUSTMENTS

- Ponds 2 and 3 were transferred to be level last week.
- Drip irrigation system was winterized on November 1st.
- Met with Rustic Inn Café – Outcomes (Trial Run)
 - Township to clean filters on regular basis
 - Township may consider buying a portable pressure washer, i.e. 20v Dewalt,, approximately \$220.
 - Introduce enzymes in 3rd exterior grease trap
 - Rustic Café
 - Reduce cleaning enzymes in building
 - Slightly increase water temperature
 - Completed prior to meeting
 - Wiping dishes in garbage



» EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- Jody's Report

» UTILITY LOCATES

- Jody's Report

» UPCOMING

- Calibration of pond pressure transducers.
 - Discuss pond #1 sludge reduction and removal.
-

STEWART RIVER SEWER:

No update.

REVIEW MINUTES:

Motion Hull, second Voss to accept both the October 24th Regular Meeting minutes and the November 14th Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Salakka with one typo noted on the outstanding check total which was correct at the bottom of the report but incorrect in the middle of the report where the current balance was totaled. She read the correct balance as follows: TOSC checking: \$65,101.83 and TOSC savings: \$631,481.83 for a total of \$696,583.66. Outstanding checks totaled \$14,347.03 for a CTAS balance: \$682,236.63. Motion Hull, second Voss to accept the October Treasurer's Report with correction to the

outstanding check total noted. Motion Hull, second Krech to authorize the requested transfer of \$76,000 from savings to checking. Both motions were carried unanimously.

READING OF THE BILLS:

The current month's bills were read: claims 9965-10004, totaling \$66,698.86, and payrolls through November 24th. Motion Voss, second Krech, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board considered the following:

- November MAT Newsletter.
- Affidavit of Posting of a quorum of supervisors attending Annual MAT meeting.
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement.
- Timber Auction information from Lake County.

OLD BUSINESS:

Insurance – Oftedahl reported a call from John Acheson who said they would quote a cyber security policy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election – Motion Hull, second Voss to set the following polling hours for the March 12th Township Election: 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. and to designate the following Absentee Ballot location: 1924 Town Road, Two Harbors, MN 55616. Carried unanimously.

Safe and Sick – Hull reported that we are exceeding the minimum requirements of this law for all employees except for Larsen. And he proposed that Larsen's MOU be updated to receive PTO in the manner of the other part-timers. He said there are a few more questions about the new law to be answered including how the new version of CTAS will handle this, so Oftedahl will be doing a bit more research.

PENDING BUSINESS:

Newsletter – The newsletter was reviewed with no concerns voiced.

There being no further business, motion Voss, second Krech to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday December 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk