

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 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 Oftedahl; Treasurer Shelly Peterson; 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 6:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:**

Hogan Letter – After reviewing a letter from Chris Hogan, motion Hull, second Voss to have the Clerk write a response and provide minutes showing the Town response to his letter back in 2022 and to inform our attorney that his contact information was provided to Hogan. Motion carried unanimously.

**ROAD & SAFETY:**

Road Report – Thompson reported that plowing took place on the weekend with cleanup on Monday and that all vehicles had their interiors cleaned and other janitorial work was completed.

Tractor Repair – No change – still waiting.

**SEWER OPERATIONS:**

Sewer Operator's Report – Motion Hull, second Voss to accept the Wastewater Operator's Report as presented (full report on file in Clerk's Office). Carried unanimously.

Lift Station One – Thompson reported that there were two "low level" alarms last night.

Grease Problems – Thompson said he believed that the restaurant was working to increase the schedule of grease pumping.

**STEWART RIVER SEWER:**

Voss reported no changes.

**REVIEW MINUTES:**

Motion Hull, second Voss to accept as presented the 1/21 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion Voss, second Krech to accept as presented the 2/4 Budget/Levy Working Meeting minutes. Motion Hull, second Voss to accept as presented the 2/11 Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes. All motions carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Peterson as follows: TOSC checking: \$54,819.31 and TOSC savings: \$721,490.56 for a total of \$776,309.87. Outstanding checks totaled \$22,009.65 for a CTAS balance: \$754,300.22. Motion Hull, second Krech to accept the January Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Voss, second Hull to authorize the requested transfer of \$84,000 from savings to checking which included \$30,000 for the Building loan payment that will be electronically deducted March 1<sup>st</sup>. Both motions carried unanimously.

**READING OF THE BILLS:**

The current month's bills were read: claims 10471-10499, totaling \$42,190.52 and payrolls through February 21. Motion Voss, second Krech, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Board considered the following:

- Email from Jason DiPiazza regarding a culvert/bridge replacement project on E. Alger Grade over Encampment River. Hull asked Thompson to invite Jason to the next COW meeting for a discussion of options.
- Letter from MAT regarding 2025 spring short-courses for Supervisors, Clerks and Treasurers.
- First half of 2024 Taconite Production Tax Distributions in the amount of \$35,219.

- Email from Northshore Journal with a proof of the Annual Meeting and Township Election Notice.
- Email from Tax1099.com stating our form 1099s were accepted by the IRS.
- Email from Lake County of a deposit for 2025 Town Road Allotment (gas tax) in the amount of \$24,918.94.
- Email from Chris Hogan regarding a request for information in his land use dispute with Lake County.
- Silver Creek Annual Meeting Notice as submitted to the Northshore Journal.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Historic Hall – No change to this project.

At this point, Chairman Voss recessed the Regular meeting.

Voss then called to order the Board of Audit at 7:25 p.m.

After viewing and confirming that the Clerk's and Treasurer's books matched each other and the bank statement and based upon audit of register reports at last week's meeting, motion Voss, second Hull to accept the Clerk's Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously. The cover page of the document was then signed by each member of the Board. Motion Voss, second Krech to adjourn the Board of Audit at 7:29 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Voss then reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 7:29 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Proposed 2026 Town Budget/Levy – Alignment between the 2026 budget and the levy were debated. After discussion, the group agreed to increase the budget proposed at the Annual Meeting by adding \$20,000 to the Road and Bridge budget (\$344,500 to \$364,500) and adding \$5,000 to the Fire budget (45,000 to 50,000). And, on the *Recap of Prior Year* page, the Board decided that sewer financials should be completely separated from Town financials and placed on a separate handout for the Annual Meeting. The Clerk was directed to make that change. Revised handouts to be reviewed next week.

Proposed Sewer Rates – The sewer budget for the current year (2025) was discussed. Based upon last year's results, and because the plan did not include an outsourced Operator, the 2025 budget was revised up to \$197,000. This amount was used with the Rate Calculator. The rates calculated by the system were then reviewed and it was agreed that these rates be presented at the April Rate Hearing. And, after looking at calendars, motion Voss, second Hull to change the date of the April COW and Rate Hearing the Thursday April 10 when Hull is back from vacation. Motion carried unanimously – The Clerk was directed to update the posted calendar.

**PENDING BUSINESS:**

Absentee Voting – Oftedahl reported that absentee voting is underway.

Newsletter – Several changes to stories were identified and Oftedahl agreed to make the changes.

Annual Meeting Planning – Krech reported that John Bathke will serve as Moderator. Final review of handouts and planning speeches will be done at the March COW meeting the week before the Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, motion Voss, second Hull to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday March 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk