

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAY 13, 2025

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday May 13th in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

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

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Mike Hoops, Lynette Simmons, Jessica Peterson, Joe Thorne, Allen Anderson, Val Johnson, Larry Johnson, and Kristen Odden.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns

Lynette Simmons appeared before the Board and requested a culvert and/or improved ditching be placed on Alder Road near her garage. She said rain and snowmelt coming from Alder flooded her garage this spring. After discussion, it was agreed that Thompson would inspect the problem area at a rainy time to see what can be done.

Supervisor Resignation

Scott Krech's April 22nd letter of resignation was reviewed. Chairman Hull then explained that per statute, this mid-term vacancy on the Board must be filled by appointment. After discussion, motion Hull, second Voss, with support by Oftedahl to appoint Mike Hoops based upon his willingness, and his 18 years of previous experience on the Board. Motion carried unanimously. Oftedahl then administered the Oath of Office to Hoops, and he took his place at the Board table.

Road and Safety

Thompson reported that beaver issues at the Alger Grade culvert were resolved today, and the entire blockage was cleared. Road bans are still in effect on Clark and Alger Grade and will be until the frost clears. He also reported that he is in the process of getting a quote for new airbrakes for the International truck. The quick-attach for the excavator was repaired on site. A bunch of grading was done. Zeigler has quoted \$4,609 for the 2000-hour maintenance for our road grader. The last of the new tires for the dump truck have arrived. New tires were also installed on the small equipment trailer.

Tractor Repair – The tractor is ready to be picked up. Once the invoice is received a check will need to be cut prior to picking it up.

Seasonal Hiring – Thompson received 2 resumes but has not found the right person yet.

General Sewer Operations

The Operator's Report sent in by Operator Appelwick was read in the meeting. The dripper lines sustained a lot of damage from some type of animal chewing them up.

Grease Problem – Thompson reported that he pumped grease from Lift Station 1 and there wasn't much there.

RV Project – The Conditional Use Permit was granted.

GIS Mapping Grant – Silver Creek was selected to receive the grant. Next week the Board can move to accept or decline.

Sewer Chain of Command – After discussing some confusions on who is doing what, Hull requested that the contracts with the Engineer (Bollig) and with the Licensed Operator (Advanced Utility Operations) be retrieved by the Clerk for review by the Board.

Facilities

Thompson reported a couple items still in seasonal storage. He also discussed the torn screens at the Pavilion. The Board authorized replacement of the screens.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported no change on this project.

Correspondence

Correspondence was postponed until next week based upon nothing urgent being in the folder and a group of constituents waiting to speak.

OLD BUSINESS

Historic Hall Estimates – Five of the visitors in attendance were interested in the Historic Town Hall. Hull began by summarizing the special meeting with Bollig Engineering held last week (full minutes online or at Clerk's Office). He explained that an inspection report was presented by the architect and engineer who examined the Hall. He also discussed the contractor quote that Jessica Peterson had obtained by her own initiative and brought into last week's special meeting. Hull reported that Peterson's estimate came in at about \$440,000 for a full renovation. Val Johnson asked about the cost of repairing the roof. Hull reminded the group that asbestos mitigation might be needed, and a lab test is being conducted on the shingles. It was debated whether or not metal could be installed right over asbestos shingles. Peterson challenged the cost of using an engineering firm for inspection. Hull responded that an accurate assessment by licensed professionals is needed prior to getting repair estimates. For example, the engineers identified the need to create restrooms that comply with ADA requirements. Joe Thorne stated that we can't tear down the Hall as it is the only piece of history in our town. He said he worked with the Preservation Alliance and that it wouldn't be very difficult to fix it up. He also felt a commercial kitchen is a great investment as a small business incubator. Hull agreed that while anything can be fixed up, it is a question of the cost of doing so. Hoops responded that there is not a clear use for the Historic Hall as the Board Meetings and Elections are currently being held here (in the new addition on the Town Garage). Hull then explained that data and cost is being obtained for three options, demolition, full refurbishment, or replacement with a similar building. He explained that information on the costs for each option will be sent to taxpayers and a public meeting will be held to discuss it.

Public Meeting Date – The Board decided to set Saturday September 6 as the tentative date for the special meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Laptop Replacement – Oftedahl is having many issues with the 7 year old laptop. She was asked to come back with pricing for approval.

June Newsletter – Not yet ready for review.

PENDING BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. upon motion Hoops, second Voss. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk