

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2024

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on January 9, 2024 in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

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

Absent: Supervisor Scott Krech

Visitors Present: None

The meeting start was delayed due to technical issues with the overhead monitor.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Constituent Concerns**

Hull reported one complaint about plowing. Per the Town Policy, plowing was not done the first morning due to snowfall being less than three inches.

### **Road and Safety**

Reineccius reported plowing has been going well but there are some cutting edges that need to be replaced. There are new tires for the Sterling and the Dodge that need to be put on. The new sweeper is here but has not been used yet. And the old Eterra brush cutter was picked up. The other mower has been repaired as has the pumper truck. It is in the process of being filled with water so that the skating rink can be flooded. The tractor has developed an oil leak and requires repair. Parts have been ordered. There was a casket burial in the cemetery last week.

### **General Sewer Operations**

Operator Reineccius reported that he is working on verifying the calibration of pumps. The different method of calibrating that Eric Appelwick used has resulted in a number of gallons almost half the amount of December last year. Reineccius asked the MPCA about this and they suggested another calibration. He will complete the reporting next week and fill in the Operator's report once the December influent number has been verified. He also reported that he completed a virtual training on pond inspections for continuing education credit and will be attending classes at the Annual Rural Water Conference in St Cloud March 5-7. He is also following up on some issues with Lift Station 1 – the alarm keeps alerting for failing pump seals. These will be checked and either repaired, or if it's a false alert, that part of the alarm system will be shut off. He is getting the flow meter sent to Flow Measurement for calibration. Thompson repaired all the broken sewer pumps in the back room – approximately 8 pumps. Finally, he said that the grease issue at Lift Station 1 is reduced.

New Sewer Connections – Voss requested that Reineccius meet him at Rostvolds to look at their tank together. Voss also suggested that the Town develop a document for contractors with requirements for sewer hookup to possibly avoid the conflict we have had with Rostvolds. Oftedahl reported that the surveyor never responded for getting the properties surveyed for utility easement documents.

Arndt Fence – Voss is following up with Arnt and he requested that this topic be removed from the agenda.

### **Stewart River Wastewater Project**

Voss reported that he has not heard from Bollig.

### **Correspondence**

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Emailed letter from Natalie Lavenstein regarding the closing of the Lake County Landfill and requesting the Board's help in providing a space for a community meeting and spreading the word about the meeting. The Board discussed this and felt the space would be okay but that the Town doesn't necessarily have a way to spread the word. Two options identified were either a newsletter story or a note on the website. The Clerk was asked to respond and get more information from Lavenstein.

- Emailed notice from MAT regarding annual membership dues. The group discussed whether membership is required in order to be insured by MATIT as we do currently have our policies with MATIT. The Clerk was asked to contact MAT and ask the question.
- December 2023 Newsletter from MAT.
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreements.
- A Right of Interment for Eileen McCoy was signed.
- Email from John Schlangen noting that the Clark Road Bridge requires repair of 2 broken guardrail posts.
- Pledge reports for the town bank accounts for past 2 months.
- From Lake County, 1 Variance decision, 1 notice of Hearing, 1 land use application and 4 permits for septic system installations.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Cyber Insurance Purchase – Hull recapped a meeting with John Acheson and Ben Wasche. The Board reviewed the quote for cyber insurance which was \$3,928. Hull explained that the bindable quote will expire before next week's meeting, so a decision must be made. After discussion motion Hull, second Voss to purchase the insurance and have Oftedahl authorized to sign the paperwork this week.

Resolution for Sewer Replacement Fund – The Board read a draft resolution clarifying that the Sewer Replacement fund monies can only be used for repairs over \$10,000 and with Supervisor approval. The resolution will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Annual Sewer Truck Transfer – The Board considered the transfer for the use of sewer truck and Hull noted it should be based on mileage. Oftedahl will get exact mileage from Thompson for next week.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Park State Bank "Positive Pay" Check Fraud Prevention Program — Oftedahl that she and Anderson had a Zoom meeting with Keira Wilson and Karla Karp after Wilson suggested check fraud is up and that this program is a good investment. For \$20 a month an electronic file from CTAS is sent to the bank and then no check is cashed against our account unless it matches what we sent in that file to the bank. They also have an ACH Fraud Filter, program. The ACH ensures that there are no unauthorized electronic debits from our account. If we go with both programs, the cost is \$30 per month total. In discussion, Voss and Hull both liked the idea.

COLA Increase for Employees – The adjusted annual inflation rate has not yet been released, it is coming on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The employees cost of living adjustment (COLA) raise will be based upon that rate and made retroactive to January 1.

New Mileage Rate – The new federal mileage rate of \$0.67 has been released and next week will be approved for the Town.

2023 Fees – The Board reviewed Cemetery fees, Driveway Access fees, and Hall Rental rates. After discussion, there appeared to be agreement that fee increases were not needed. These rates will be voted upon next week.

Election Judges – The current list of Election Judges must be approved next week. The Board discussed pay and suggested possibly increasing it to \$17.50 per hour.

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

Filing – Oftedahl reported that 2 individuals have filed for candidacy so far: Hull for Supervisor and herself for Clerk.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk