

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday December 12, 2023, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

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

Absent: None

Visitors Present: None

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

Constituent Concerns

Oftedahl reported a discussion with Dan Cruikshank who is interested in establishing summer biking trails on Silver Creek's recreational property. The Board reviewed the Conditional Use Order for the existing trails on that property and they do say winter only. The Clerk was directed to ask Cruikshank to appear with a representative of the Ski Club to present their plan to the Board.

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported that roads are looking very good for this time of year. Larsen has been doing a lot of brushing of road right-of-ways. The trade for the new sweeper is pending pickup of the old brush cutter. Larsen and Thompson improved the ice rink; however, ice is waiting on a repair to the pumper truck. The part may cost \$5,000. Later in the meeting it was agreed that it needs to be repaired. Hull also presented a flyer for a pull behind road grader. The Board discussed whether or not these types of road graders are effective on hard clay.

General Sewer Operations

Reineccius reported that he spent the day with our MPCA Compliance Officer McKensie Wilkinson-Hanson on an inspection of the Beaver Bay Wastewater plant. He reported that he learned a great deal. Lift Station 1 Grease Issues – Reineccius reported that he believes the grease may be coming from Grand Superior instead of Rustic. A grease block with biologics to eat the grease has been placed in the system.

New Installs – Rostvold's tank was discussed. Reineccius said that the tank will not freeze and that he plans to put more material around it in spring. Surveys and utility easements for the new connections need to be done. Tony Lueck was suggested to the Clerk for the surveying.

Operator's Report – Appelwick's contract goes through the end of this month, so he may be submitting a report, but there wasn't one as of this meeting.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss did not have news to report.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Letter from Lake County Auditor showing the second half of the levy totaling \$174,186 deposited December 1st.
- Emailed letter from Brook Wetmore of St. Louis County inviting the Town to participate in development of a regional collaborative in response to the impacts of climate change.
- Emailed letter from Nataile Lavenstein at UMN Extension asking community leaders to participate or host a community conversation on recycling and composting.
- Email from Nathan Feist at Bollig with an update for the newsletter.
- Email from Lake County Assessor looking for a list of Township owned properties in order to answer a question he received from MATIT in regard to the Town's insurance.
- Email sent by Deputy Clerk to MATIT to remove brush cutter (Eterra Raptor) that is being traded for the new sweeper.

- Permit Contact Change form submitted by Anderson to MPCA to remove old users from the Towns MPCA wastewater account.
- Email from RMB Labs with notice of a new location.
- Notice of grant program for Broadband development in rural areas.

OLD BUSINESS

LBAE Training by Jan 31st – Krech and Hull need to complete the training. Voss asked the Clerk to determine when his training will expire.

NEW BUSINESS

Cyber Insurance – The Board discussed cyber-crime and whether the Town should consider an insurance policy. Documents from Hamilton Monroe were available to the Board. Hull said he plans to get more information on any exceptions to the coverage. Oftedahl reported her conversation with Acheson in which he said that should any resident's sensitive information be stolen, the required notifications and the identity theft monitoring runs about \$165 per person.

Utility Permit – Hull said he hasn't had time to meet with Reineccius on this.

MN Sick and Safe Law – Hull reported attending training on this at the MAT Conference. He said that Silver Creek is in compliance for all employees except for Larsen. A revised MOU for Larsen offering the same PTO policy as the Clerk and Deputy Clerk was presented. A couple changes were noted, and a revised copy will be voted upon next week.

Sewer Enterprise Replacement Fund Clarification – The sewer's two funds were considered. A written policy to differentiate when to pay an expense from the Replacement Fund does not exist. The Board felt that in order to save up the funds needed for future large repairs such as \$100,00 dredging; it would be best to avoid all spending out of the Replacement Fund unless specifically directed by the Board. Oftedahl will attempt to draft a simple policy stating that position for use in paying claims.

Estimated Year End Fund Balances – An error was found in the Totals when the Board viewed the fund balance estimate. Oftedahl will bring a corrected copy next meeting.

2024 Board Meeting Dates – A schedule was reviewed that seemed to be acceptable to everyone. It will need to be approved at next week's regular meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk