

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2024

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday November 12, 2024 in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Chuck Voss, Greg Hull, and Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; 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 6:31 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Constituent Concerns**

Thompson reported one call from a Press Camp Road resident requesting road grading. He said that that grading has now been done. Hull reported hearing from an Election Judge that people were very polite at the Election, that they thanked the Judges, and that everything ran well.

### **Road and Safety**

Road Report – Thompson reported that he was called in yesterday to clear trees from roads after the windstorm. There was a large tree down in the Cemetery. He said that since the last meeting, vehicles have been fully prepared for winter including installing the plow and wing on the International. He said almost all roads have been graded and also that he replaced the bit holder and bits on the road grader. He discussed plans to change tires on the plow truck as the current heavy highway ones are not good for snowy gravel roads. He plans to move the heavy-highway tires onto the old dump truck used for summer hauling and get tires on the plow truck that work best for plowing. Thompson presented quotes for new and recapped from Duluth Tire. There were no objections voiced to the plan.

Tractor Repair – The Tractor is not done yet. Thompson will call for another update.

### **General Sewer Operations**

General Operations – Thompson reported that all basic maintenance is done. He finished the water transfer that was requested and placed all frost blankets and boxes on customer grinder stations. The system is ready for winter. The generators do still need a change in fuel type.

Operator's Report – Not yet available.

Grease Problems – Thompson reported that it is time to pump grease, but that he did not have time last week to get to it. Operator Appelwick was not at the meeting, but it is believed that he has yet to meet with the business owner suspected of being the cause of the grease problem.

Overdue Minnesota Pump Works Invoice – The Clerk reported that an invoice from August that was lost in email had been brought to the attention of the Clerk's Office. Thompson verified the purchase using serial numbers and it was confirmed that the pumps on the invoice are here and that we have not paid previously. Oftedahl asked the Board to approve payment today. They agreed and signed the claim and the check for this invoice.

Lift Station Pump Replacement – Voss reported that he is still waiting on Feist for numbers to be used in a request for proposal (RFP) for new pumps.

Ben Oliver Project – The Town has not heard from Oliver lately, and Voss said he does not believe that the application for the project has yet been completed with Lake County.

Revised Commercial Sewer Application Form – Oftedahl presented the revised form. The old application was residentially oriented. The new form has additional fields for contractor contact information and includes the requirement for an engineer's plan for wastewater in commercial projects. There were no additional edits or objections raised to the new application.

### **Facilities**

Recycling Trailer – The group discussed the fact that things have been going well with recycling and Thompson has seen almost no litter. The trailer has only been here since Oct 26<sup>th</sup> and has been emptied twice.

Historic Hall Leaking Toilet – Thompson has turned off all utilities in the Hall for winter. The toilet is not planned to be addressed until spring. Chairman Voss directed it be removed from the agenda.

Cemetery Lights for Flag Display – Thompson reported that he just installed the light ordered by Anderson for the flagpole but has not run it long enough to determine whether it will perform well.

Old Golf Cart for recycling and cemetery – Oftedahl requested an old used golf cart for runs to the recycling trailer and cemetery. When assisting those in the cemetery, it is necessary to open the map and cemetery book on some sort of table. A side-by-side was suggested by Voss that might be shared between the sewer, cemetery and recycling.

Heat – Thompson just turned on the boiler and in-floor heat for Office and Board Meeting Room and reminded the Clerk how to turn on the thermostat.

### **Stewart River Wastewater Project**

Voss reported that he has not heard of any changes with this project.

### **Correspondence**

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Invitation and schedule for Township Day at the Capitol on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul.
- Email from Lake County Deputy Auditor confirming that the second half of our levy will be deposited in the Town's account December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Copy of story in MAT magazine stating that a new Minnesota statute requires the Town to change their domain to ".gov" if they administrate absentee voting (which Silver Creek does for the Township Election).
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement for the Board Meeting Room.
- MATIT Work Comp insurance premium notice showing a slight decrease in price from last year.
- Cyber Insurance premium notice from Hamilton Monroe showing a 5.5% increase in price from last year.
- 1 Affidavit of Posting was signed.
- 4 Lake County Notices of Hearings for land use issues along with accompanying applications made by Silver Creek property-owners.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Historic Hall – Nothing new on this agenda item.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution Delegating Cannabis Registration to County – The Board considered advice from the Minnesota Association of Townships suggesting that Townships delegate the registration and the ongoing compliance inspections of cannabis retailers to their County. There did not seem to be any objections to this – the Resolution will be voted upon in next week's Regular Meeting.

MAT Annual Conference Dec 13-14 – Voss reported that he plans to attend. Hull stated he may but will check his calendar. Krech does not plan to attend. Authorization for these expenses will be voted upon at next week's meeting.

Election Follow Up – Thompson noted that Election Judges should park somewhere else as there seemed to be a shortage of parking. Oftedahl reported that an average of 49 voters came through every hour, so the parking lot may not have been enough either way. The group discussed the use of the garage and the fact that it is extra work and inconvenient for the Road crew. Oftedahl noted that should amenities be added to the pavilion, any change must be made well in advance. The law requires that the polling location for March Elections be declared by December 3<sup>rd</sup> of each year. The Clerk also reported that the Town's old wheelchair was used by 4 individuals this year and that it is broken. A replacement should be found before the next major election. A donated one will be sought.

Motion setting 2025 Township Polling Location; hours (12 noon – 8 pm); date 3/11; and Absentee Ballot Location – Per statute, the polling and absentee ballot location for the March 2025 Election will be set at next week's Regular meeting.

Newsletter – A very incomplete rough draft was viewed. The Clerk asked for any ideas. A more complete draft will be viewed next week.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk