

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

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday April 9, 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; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius; Clerk Alison Oftedahl and Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Constituents Present: Linda Schueler, Rich Sve, Gary Olson, Allen Anderson, David Henjum, Ed Bjork, Richard Wasilewski, Rene Svir, Arlene Svir, Rodger Staples, Bruce Tower, Joe Hall, Butch Wittlief, Dan Snowdon, Marsha Snowden, Colleen Wallin, Mack Staples, Tim Webber, Milt Wittleif, Winston Norby, and Karen Norby.

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

Hull made a change in the agenda to postpone the Rate Hearing based upon learning that the constituents present were here for a different concern.

### **Constituent Concerns**

Linda Schueler had called ahead to report that constituents wished to discuss the proposed Maji Ya Chai Land Sanctuary. Hull confirmed that attendees were all here for that issue and all were except County Commissioner Sve who was present to hear concerns and to attend the CDSSD Rate Hearing. Hull then called each attendee in the order of the sign-up sheet and provided them time to speak. An hour and a half was spent hearing concerns. Here are the issues that were raised:

- The size of the planned resort was extremely concerning with regard to impact to the peace and quiet, impact to traffic, and a failure to conform to density requirements. The ten-acre minimum being intended to keep the density low. It sounded as if the Sanctuary would operate like a resort more than like a residence and is large, not small.
- It could be 32 visitors times twice a week to equal 3,328 traffic trips per year on the road. They also felt there might be increased service trucks such as garbage trucks, delivery trucks, etc. to service so many guests. The road maintenance costs would be born by residents in the levy and not by a non-profit with a tax-exempt status.
- Constituents questioned a commercial enterprise would be allowed in an area zoned residential. They felt it would negatively impact their neighborhood and be in violation of the county ordinance that states that "use should not be detrimental to the property immediately adjacent to them".
- Concerns were raised about statements made on healing those in trauma. Would these be people with issues, would there be increased use of emergency rescue along with insufficient resources,
- Regarding Lake County's public hearing, constituents were unhappy with the process including not being notified far enough in advance to be fully prepared, not given enough time to speak, not being able to hear comments of others, and not getting full information about the plans of the Sanctuary.
- Concerns were raised about enforcement issues such as whether the County would make sure that events held do not exceed the maximum number of people allowed.
- Many questions were raised about the exact intentions of the Sanctuary, how it will work, what activities would be held, how they might charge for services, where their funding comes from and whether they have been honest in presenting their ideas.

Chairman Hull then explained that the Township has no zoning authority and therefore not much control over what happens with this issue. Wittleif asked Silver Creek Supervisors to bring these concerns to the County based upon doing their duty as elected representatives of the Township.

Lake County Commissioner Sve assured everyone that he would ask as many questions as he could at the next meeting and get answers. He also clarified that not everyone who applies for tax exempt status gets it. Hull then recessed the meeting at 7:55 pm for a ten minute break. All visitors except Rich Sve left at this point.

Hull reconvened the COW meeting at 8:17 p.m. after the Rate Hearing.

### **Road and Safety**

Reineccius reported that Thompson and Larsen did a good job plowing snow the week Reineccius was out of Town. He said the skid steer has issue. Sensors have been replaced but the computer still needs to be reset. The plow has been removed and grading has begun. The tractor is ripped apart and needs to be painted.

Seasonal Storage Removal – Reineccius wishes to manage this himself.

### **General Sewer Operations**

Operator Reineccius presented his Operator's report. He said the ponds are in good shape.

Surveys for Utility Easements on New Installations – Reineccius has not heard from Rick Tofte.

Gerard Panel Installation – Not discussed.

Frischmann's Alarm – Not discussed.

Rostvold Tank – Not discussed.

### **Stewart River Wastewater Project**

Voss clarified that the Congressional Spending Request and the 150 more rural projects to be financed are part of the same program. Bollig is working to get us on that list. Sve informed the group that Senator Grant Hauschild is very interested in the Stewart River project and that he recommended we get on the Bonding Bill Tour so that others can take a look at the project.

Financial Agreement with Lake County – Rich Sve was asked whether the County might be willing to grant another extension in repayment of funds loaned to Silver Creek for the Stewart River project. Sve stated that he believed they might and asked the number of years extension. Hull then asked the Clerk to write a letter of request for a four-year extension.

### **Correspondence**

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Email from Laura Ostlie of Bollig Engineering requesting that the Town identify a contact to keep contacting legislators.
- Email from MATIT (origami risk) asking the Town to review coverage levels on vehicles, equipment buildings and liability and notify of any changes by May 15.
- Nationwide Quarterly report of investment performance of employee deferred compensation plan.
- Park State Bank Letter of Credit.
- Tofte survey quote for doing utility survey on new sewer connection properties.
- 4 Affidavits of Posting were signed regarding CDSSD Rate Hearing, LBAE, Board quorum attending MAT Training, and updated Meeting Schedule.
- 2 approved Interim Use Applications from Lake County.
- MAT Newsletter.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Historical Hall – The group discussed the fact that Pickleball won't fit in the old Hall but would fit in the Pavilion. The old Hall also has lights that are too low.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Reimbursement of PNP Election Expenses – Oftedahl reported that she applied for approximately \$1,200 of reimbursement and is awaiting response from the state.

Plan for Road Tour, Lunch, and LBAE – Confirmed we have two members trained. The question was raised whether the county assessors would come speak to our Board ahead of the LBAE. Clerks were asked to follow up. The Board discussed a vehicle that could fit everyone and Krech volunteered the Anderson's van. Reineccius said he would take care of making the lunch.

### **REORGANIZATION**

Reorganization items were reviewed and will be decided at next week's regular meeting. In discussion, the Clerk requested a wage increase based upon the COLA (3.4%) that was granted to employees in January. The Deputy Treasurer wage was considered because after payroll tax, the per meeting amount

was extremely low – a \$75 per meeting amount was proposed. In discussion, members wished to keep their area of responsibility and Voss agreed to take Chairmanship.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk