

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 19, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

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

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Dan Cruikshank

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:**

None

**VISITOR:**

Dan Cruikshank – Cruikshank asked the Board for a letter of support for the Two Harbors Area Recreational and Trail Club for trails. He requested the use of the trails for mountain bikes in the summer on the Town of Silver Creek property at the end of the Fairground Road. Cruikshank reported the trails would need to be smoothed and capped. Wetland areas might need board walk built. Changes will have to be made to modify the Conditional Use Permit to use as a summer bike trail. The Board liked the idea of the trails and Cruikshank will come back later with more details.

**ROAD & SAFETY:**

Road Report – Reineccius reported waiting for a crank shaft sensor for the tanker truck. Larsen has been brushing on the sides of the township roads. Reineccius and Thompson have a lot of culverts now marked. He also said that there is an ice problem on the West Castle Danger Road.

**SEWER OPERATIONS:**

Sewer Report – Motion Voss, second Krech to accept the Wastewater Operator's Report (included below). Carried unanimously.

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**MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT**

November/December 2023

December 19, 2023, Board Meeting

Silver Creek Subordinate Sewer District



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**» OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Weekly site visits have been made since the inception of the contract, through the month of November. EMA retyped the startup and shutdown procedures for the drip irrigation. They were printed, laminated, and left at the treatment building. Two emergency responses happened at lift station #1 during the month of November.

**» OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND ADJUSTMENTS**

- No sampling was required in the month of November.
- Flows were calculated with new drawdown calibration numbers for the month of November.

**» EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

- 11-24-23: Lift station #1 failed on the evening of 11/23/23. Paul was onsite and was able to coordinate pumping until the lift station could be looked at the next day.
  - EMA arrived onsite @ 0545 on 11/24 and inspected the system. Upon a thorough electrical inspection, it was noted that no legs of power were missing. The breaker was reset, and the lift station resumed operation. While watching it go through a pump cycle, it began to crackle/arc and

everything flickered, then shut down. After a few seconds it turned itself back on. This electrical behavior is typically indicative that an electrical short was happening, more than likely, due to corroded wires.

- JR from AUS Electric arrived back onsite @ 0915, along with EMA, to cut back and reset all major power wires in the lift station. All original wiring was indeed severely corroded. Additionally, it was noted that strands of wires on pump #2 were touching, which also was causing failures. Before replacing the wires in their terminals, Noalax was added as a corrosion prohibiter. The lift station resumed normal operation upon leaving the site.
  - 11-28-23: Lift station #1 failed again on the morning of 11/28.
    - Jody responded and was able to get the lift station back in operation early in the morning. EMA was onsite later in the day for the weekly site visit to the ponds. After the ponds inspections were complete, EMA stopped at lift station #1 to verify whether or not the previous electrical repair caused the failure. After the initial inspection it was determined the 24<sup>th</sup> repair was not the cause of the failure, the 120v terminal strip was then inspected. This section of wires and terminals were not cleaned/updated on the 24<sup>th</sup>, due to them not being a main source of incoming power. Upon the first step of the inspection, the lift station instantly shut down when placing an insulated screwdriver on the first terminal screw.
    - All wires in the terminal strip were stripped back, cleaned and reset in the terminal strip. It was noted that these wires were also corroded. Upon restoring the power, the 24v power supply failed. The power supply failure was suspected due to the shorted/failed terminal strip in addition to clean wires producing full 120 volts. The power supply from the treatment building at the ponds was utilized to re-energize the lift station.
    - Wagos were installed to eliminate the failed terminal strip. Wagos are rated for 32 amps and 450 volts, which is more than sufficient to repair the electrical issue. A terminal strip can be installed at a later date, not under emergency circumstances. The lift station was properly operating, and the electrical equipment sounded like it was running much better than before.
  - Please note that all work done within the lift station was discussed with Sy/Com for both trouble shooting and repairs. All major wiring completed on the 24<sup>th</sup> was completed by a master electrician as AUS is bonded and licensed as an electrical contractor.
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Lift Station 1 Grease Problem – Reineccius said there is not a problem now; there is only a problem in the summer.

New Installs – Voss and Reineccius will meet with Rostvold to discuss cutting the tank down, adding more gravel, and applying heat tape.

Arndt Fence – Voss reported he will speak with Arndt about the height of the window on the fence.

#### **STEWART RIVER SEWER:**

Voss reported no updates.

#### **REVIEW MINUTES:**

Motion Voss, second Krech to accept as presented the November 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting minutes. Motion Hull, second Voss to accept as presented the December 5<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting on Wastewater Operations. Motion Hull, second Voss to accept as presented the December 12<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes. All motions carried unanimously.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pellman as follows: TOSC checking: \$53,081.29 and TOSC savings: \$578,009.34 for a total of \$631,090.63. Outstanding checks totaled \$8,959.64 for a CTAS balance: \$622,130.99. Motion Hull, second Voss to accept the November 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Voss, second Krech to authorize the requested transfer of \$74,000 from savings to checking. Both motions carried unanimously.

**READING OF THE BILLS:**

The current month’s bills were read: claims 10005-10037, totaling \$48,590.00, and payrolls through 12/22/2023. Motion Hull, second Voss, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Board considered the following:

- Letter from Minnesota Rural Water Association regarding onsite training.
- Email from Office of State Auditor regarding updates in CTAS about Earned Sick and Safe Time.
- Email from Department of Treasury regarding ARPA Funds.
- Affidavit of Posting/Publishing was signed.
- Email from MATIT regarding their lawsuit.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

LBAE Training — Hull and Krech have till the end of January 2024 to complete it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Cyber Insurance – Hull asked Oftedahl to set up a meeting with John Acheson to discuss the quote given.

Utility Permit – Hull has not gotten together with Reineccius to work on it yet.

MN Sick and Safe Law – Larsen MOU – Motion Hull second Voss to approve Larsen’s MOU with sick and safe time added as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Enterprise Replacement Fund clarification- After discussion, the Board decided to table the Resolution till January 2024.

Estimated End of Year Fund Balances – The Board viewed a spreadsheet with the estimated balances in each fund.

2024 Board Meeting Dates- Motion Hull, Second Krech to adopt the 2024 meeting dates as presented below. Motion carried unanimously.

**TOWN of SILVER CREEK  
2024 BOARD MEETING DATES**

Held in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, Two Harbors, MN 55616 on the date and time shown below.

January 09, 2024	Committee of the Whole (COW) 6:30 p.m.
January 16, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
February 6, 2024	Budget and Levy Working Meeting 4:00 p.m.
February 13, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
February 20, 2024	Regular & Board of Audit 6:30 p.m.
March 7, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m. – Thursday
March 12, 2024	<b>Township Election noon – 8:00 p.m.</b>
March 12, 2024	<b>Annual Meeting 8:15 p.m.</b>
March 19, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
April 09, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m. and CDSSD Rate Hearing 6:35 p.m.
April 16, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
May 07, 2024	Road Tour 7:00 a.m.

May 07, 2024	Board of Equalization (LBAE) 1:00 p.m.
May 14, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
May 21, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
June 11, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
June 18, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
July 09, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
July 16, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
August 06, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
August 20, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
September 10, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
September 17, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
October 08, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
October 15, 2024	<i>Lake County COW 6:00 p.m. at Silver Creek</i>
October 22, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
November 12, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
November 19, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.
December 10, 2024	COW 6:30 p.m.
December 17, 2024	Regular 6:30 p.m.

**PENDING BUSINESS:**

None

There being no further business, motion Voss second Krech to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday January 9th, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Anderson, Deputy Clerk