

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday March 4, 2025, 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 Oftedah; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Paul Thompson and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Lake County Engineer Jason DiPiazza

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns

Krech reported that Tammy Bailey on Press Camp is having issues with flooding off the road as a ditch that used to be there is now filled. Thompson agreed to check into this. Oftedah reported a call from John Haydon requesting steam of culvert on Red Maple Road and Thompson reported that this has been addressed.

Road and Safety

Potential Alger Grade Culvert Replacement – DiPiazza brought three handouts: a map showing the culvert's location near Clark Road, a Town Bridge Financing Guide, and an estimate of the steps and cost to replace that culvert. The estimated expense was between \$400,000 and \$500,000. The condition of this culvert and whether it truly needed immediate attention was considered. DiPiazza explained that it would have to be replaced by a much larger concrete box culvert. After discussion he explained that the Board may wish to identify bridge priorities to see if this truly is the top priority. DiPiazza also explained that the project has to be funding ready before applying for the program, so initial engineering, plans and permits have to be paid for by the Town up front. DiPiazza said he would help the Town with what they want to do. No decisions were made but everyone took the information into consideration.

Road Report – Thompson reported that he was out last week, but this week two culverts were steamed, one on Red Maple and one on Press Camp Road. The grader has a coolant leak that he will be repairing. He reported that the Dodge again has an alarm "Service DEF System". It is believed that these issues are due to a malfunctioning part and when Larsen brought the truck down to Duluth Dodge there were many trucks there for the same issue. An appointment for repair will be April 10. There was also concern that the barrels of DEF may be separating and crystalizing. Hull directed Thompson to contact a different repair shop and suggested Premier Fleet.

General Sewer Operations

Operator's Report – Operator Appelwick's report was viewed. (Full report on file in Clerk's Office). And callouts were discussed. Several systems experienced issues with freezing including the staff house at Grand Superior Lodge and the Gooseberry Cabins Resort.

Lift Station 1 – Nothing new here.

Grease Problems – No new calls to pump grease.

Christensen New Connection – Thompson reported that Christensen would like an estimate of the cost to connect his potential new house to the sewer. Oftedah reported that an application has not yet been received.

Facilities

Thompson reported that Action Fire had come to inspect the town's 30 fire extinguishers.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that he wrote a letter of support for the project and is working to obtain letters also from Mike Hoops, Commissioner Sve and the owner of Betty's Pies. Motion Hull, second Krech to approve Voss' letter and authorize it to be sent.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Email notification of PFAS settlement funds available for utilities – Voss reported that it says funds are only for systems that have had prior testing showing the presence of PFAS contamination.
- Minnesota Pumpworks Invoice– Oftedahl reported that this invoice was lost in email and requested permission to pay it off-cycle because it is due March 15 prior to the Regular March Meeting. The Board granted this permission.
- Email from Nathan Feist and submitted application for STAR grant for GIS mapping of sewer system.
- Lake County request for a letter in support of them hosting a GreenCorps member to work on increasing recycling. The Board approved this request.
- Invitation to an Open House for Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program on March 20.
- Letters on Congressionally Directed Spending applications – from Senators Klobuchar and Smith.
- Confirmation of reporting of wage detail for all Board members in compliance with the new Minnesota Paid Leave benefit program.
- Letter from St. Louis County regarding Joint Powers Agreement for HOME consortium.
- From Lake County, the Aggregate Acquisition Request form showing Thompson’s order for pit run, loam and BA material.
- MAT Newsletter
- Newsletter from the Office of Senator Hauschild.
- Affidavit of Posting of Annual Meeting, Election and Board of Canvass was signed.
- Affidavit of Posting of Updated Board Meeting Schedule (change to Rate Hearing).
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreements.
- Park State Bank Monthly Pledge Report.
- 3 hearing notices from Lake County Planning and Zoning, including the Hearing for the RV Park.

OLD BUSINESS

Historic Hall – No discussion here.

NEW BUSINESS

Sewer Rate Hearing Letters – The Board reviewed the letters informing customers of the date and time of the Rate Hearing and informing them of proposed rate increases. There were no objections or edits to the letter.

Grant Application for GIS Mapping of CDSSD wastewater lines – An application for a \$10,000 grant was submitted. Oftedahl and Voss signed the application with the assurance that the full Board could vote on whether to accept funding if we are selected as recipients. There is a matching cost, but also there is work needed in locating. Concerns about Town employees having time to do this work was discussed. Voss reported that former Operator Hoops agreed to commit some time and feels the project is important for the future of the system.

PENDING BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Handout Approval – The Board viewed handouts for the Annual Meeting and did not identify any needed changes. Roles and speeches were discussed.

Township Election – Use of the Board meeting room was discussed. The large tables will be left in the room in order to make it easier to change the room over for the meeting. Election Judges will need the sewer room for counting. Thompson said he would have to clean it.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. upon motion Hull, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The Annual Meeting is next week, and then the next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk