

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2022

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday November 15, 2022, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

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

Absent: Wastewater Operator Hoops.

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns – None.

Road and Safety – Reineccius reported that all plows were installed on vehicles except for the grader. He said he went plowing today with the new tandem axle truck. He described it as beautiful and amazing and said the belly blade is fantastic and helps with snow over mud to avoid sending gravel into the ditch. He also said he has a line on a used belly blade for the other tandem axle truck that he thought he could purchase for about \$1,000. He reported speaking to Jim Gilbert of the Two Harbors Road Department about the Burlington Road Agreement from 2006. Silver Creek would like a culvert replaced and we may team with Two Harbors on the job. Two Harbors would like to have Silver Creek assist with dust control in alleys next summer.

Facilities – Reineccius reported that Paul spent a full day cleaning in preparation for the Election and that everything went well. He said he has been leveling the ice rink area to prepare it for flooding.

Gravel Pit Next Steps – Reineccius said he will be renting Brandon Olson's bulldozer but is not sure if much will happen this fall, it depends upon weather.

Disaster Preparation GIS Software – Reineccius reported he is ready to go with this. Oftedahl reported that schedule conflicts have prevented installation on Thompson's phone, and that they will try to get with him next week.

Part-Time On-Call Employee – Deputy Clerk Anderson's phone was disconnected from the meeting at this point due to relationship with an applicant. Reineccius reported three responses to the advertising. He discussed his initial impressions. Jaeger noted that this person would be used mainly for preplanned absences of one of the full-timers, not regularly every week and Reineccius agreed. The group discussed the emergency last year when Reineccius was out of state and Thompson ended up getting injured the day before a large snowstorm, requiring Allen Anderson to be called in. Having another employee on call would be able to prevent a situation like that. Hull and Reineccius reported that they will interview this week. The Board considered a proposed draft employment document for the position that provides hourly pay but also a small payment for being on call even if not called in. Next week the Board will vote to approve a candidate and to authorize the payment and terms of the position.

Deputy Clerk Anderson was re-connected via phone to the meeting at this point.

General Sewer Operations – Everything is going well except for the repair of one of the lift station pumps. Reineccius said we have been waiting for Wiikwaibaan Inini for the replacement since May and he is concerned. Both he and Thompson have been called out on alarms generated by the missing pump. He was told that they now have the replacement part, but their crane is broken. Reineccius said we could use our own and is making plans to get this job done ASAP. He is interested in a future relationship with Minnesota Pumpworks because he feels they can provide service much more quickly.

New Installs – No installs currently in progress.

Operator's Report – None as Operator Hoops is out on vacation.

Stewart River Wastewater Project – Voss reported hearing from Bollig that the Legislature may hold a Special Session in the next month now that the Election is over. The group discussed that it appeared Ecklund was voted out but it was so close that there is a mandatory recount going on.

Correspondence – The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Affidavit of Posting for hiring of Part Time On-Call Employee.
- TBEI Invoice for new truck, TBEI Purchase Agreement from 2021, and TBEI Order Verification from 2022 – The Board discussed a discrepancy in the total between the original agreement signed in 2021, and the total on the 2022 Order Verification Report. The group was frustrated that approximately \$4,000 is owed that was not included in the loan. The Clerk reported that TBEI told her that the Verification Report was incorrect because it was missing the plow hitch. TBEI said that it was printed off the system at a time when they had removed the hitch which they later added back on. Reineccius and Oftedahl both have attempted to dispute the invoice with no success. Reineccius said he might speak one more time to our primary salesman at Mid-State Truck to see if they are willing to do anything on this, but the Board gave authorization to pay it if necessary, given it matches the quote originally signed by Chairman Voss in 2021.
- Invoice sent to Lake County Forestry for repair on West Clark Rd.
- Right of Interment for Veteran Jack Neylon was signed.
- Application to sign up for automated ACH payment of levy and other government funds sent by the Lake County Auditor Treasurer.
- MAT October newsletter.

#### OLD BUSINESS

US Bank Certificate of Deposit for Gordon Variance – No change on this project.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to Accept Donation – The Board considered a draft Resolution to accept donation of a number of sewer supply items received. There are no conditions, strings or restrictions attached to the donation. In discussion, several wording edits were noted for the Clerk. The decision to accept the donation will be made next week with full Resolution text in the Regular Minutes.

First Truck Loan Payment – It was noted that we have our first loan payment due in December and that amount will be part of the transfer request this month. The down payment was also made in 2022 due to delays with shipment of the truck, so the vicinity of \$75,000 will be spent out this year for the new tandem axle truck.

Direct Deposit by Lake County – The Clerk asked if there were any objections to signing up for automatic (ACH) payment of levy and other tax funds that are distributed by Lake County to the Township. We believe that would speed up the payment and certainly speed up the deposit process. There were no objections.

Designate Absentee Ballot Location – The Clerk requested a motion next week designating the absentee ballot location to comply with statute requiring this be set 14 weeks before the Township Election.

#### PENDING BUSINESS

Cemetery Sign – The Clerk reported that Jim Gilbert from Waldo Signworks reported that he is finished with the updates to the Directory and will be posting the new decal over the old one this week.

Payment Status Repair to West Clark Rd – Payment from Lake County Forestry is not due until the end of November. The Board viewed the invoice created by Oftedahl and Reineccius.

Newsletter Planning – The Board looked at the draft December Newsletter and discussed story ideas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. upon motion Hull, second Jaeger. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, November 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk