

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2022

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday January 11, 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; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius.

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

Constituent Concerns – Chris Hogan – The Board discussed a letter from Chris Hogan asking for support in a dispute with Lake County Planning and Zoning. Hull reported that he had talked to Hogan on the phone and explained that it wasn't Silver Creek's jurisdiction. The Board did not decide to take any action at this time.

Praise for roads – Hull said he spoke to a constituent and heard that "the road conditions were excellent in spite of the Supervisor in charge of roads".

Road and Safety – Reineccius reported a lot of plowing was done and roads are in a pretty good place. Sanding and benching is being done today. He said the skating rink is ready and being used. He reported that he found used belting that can be made into mud flaps and walkways across the parking lot for elections. He said he received email in regard to the new truck but no new information on the delivery date. He reported a burial was done last weekend and there wasn't too much frost in the ground thanks to deep snow, so it went pretty well. He presented a draft policy for the rotation of on-call weekends and a point system for tracking response to call-ins. He also said that this is a first-step and the second step is to have emergency backup for himself and Thompson in case he and Paul are both unavailable. He wants Mike Hoops to be able to fully retire and believes that Allen Anderson is likewise close to retirement. He would like to find a person to be emergency backup for both sewer and roads. There were various suggestions including trading with Silver Bay or Beaver Bay for sewer backup, using Greg Hull as backup for road emergencies, contracting with North Harbor Services for road backup, and Eric Appelwick for sewer. It was agreed to keep searching for the right solution.

General Sewer Operations – The group viewed Operator Hoops' report which noted that none of the individuals with potential new connections have called or completed their applications. The Clerk reported that the Christensen sewer easement document is complete and has been recorded with Lake County. Voss reported that he and Oftedahl will be meeting with Roeder later this week in regard to his septage account.

Stewart River Wastewater Project – Voss received a packet of information from Bollig related to the environmental review and he passed around the cover letter. The packet was only just received today and had not been fully examined yet. The group viewed the project map on the overhead monitor. There was debate about the proposed line up Highway 3 with Jaeger questioning it both in terms of expense and because it might be difficult to justify with constituents.

Correspondence – The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Voss presented information sent by the MN Association of Townships announcing increased spending flexibility for ARPA funds. He said that funds may be put in the General fund and can be used for roads.
- 2 signed Hall Rental Agreements for parties in June.
- Letter by Hoops written to Grand Superior Lodge regarding meters was circulated.
- CLP Dividend Allocation notices.
- Email from Intuit Quickbooks announcing a price increase in the monthly subscription.
- Bank notice of a fee for a check (received by Silver Creek) that was returned after deposit.
- 1 Approved Land Use Application from Lake County.

- Email invitation to Western Lake Superior Climate Resilience on February 9th, which Voss said he plans to attend.
- Notice to the County Auditor of Township Election for one Supervisor position and one Clerk position.
- Determination of Benefit Notice from Minnesota Unemployment regarding Oct 2020 through Nov 2021. The Clerk reported that she did not see errors and therefore did not plan to appeal it.

OLD BUSINESS

US Bank Certificate of Deposit for Gordon Variance – Not discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Hardship/Veteran Burial – The Board read a new draft of the Cemetery Regulations Resolution. Three changes are included: Veterans receiving free plots, a process for appeal based upon financial hardship and reference to unused plots reverting to Town ownership after 40 years. One more change was identified with an awkward sentence on the last page. The Clerk was asked to bring a corrected version next week. The Board also discussed a law regarding winter burial that the Clerk had learned about from Jerry Cavallin. Oftedahl was asked to bring in a copy of the law.

Employee COLA increases – The annual inflation rate used for employee cost of living raises was not yet released. The raises will be acted upon next week if the rate has been published by then.

Annual Service Rates – The Board considered the annual rates for the Cemetery, Hall Rental and Driveway. There were no suggestion to raise rates and no issues raised other than burial in deep winter.

Annual Mileage Reimbursement Rate – The new federal reimbursement rate for mileage is \$0.585. The Clerk requested that when motion is made next week, the Board specify how to handle the half cent.

PENDING BUSINESS

W-2s – Oftedahl asked everyone to view their W-2 and inform her of any errors with names, addresses or Social Security numbers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Jaeger. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk