

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
April 12, 2022

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday April 12, 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 Oftedah!; Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson, Wastewater Operator Mike Hoops, and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius.

Absent: None

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Voss recessed the meeting at 6:35 p.m. for the purpose of calling to order the Castle Danger Sewer Rate Hearing. Voss then reconvened the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Constituent Concerns – Hull reported a call from Randy Carter asking about a cartway. Clerk Oftedah! also received a call and heard that Carter's surveyor found record of an easement.

Road and Safety – Reineccius reported on the poor quality of our roads due to the weather and snow that fell over mud. He also said they have been steaming open some of the culverts. He reported that the new Dodge truck was fully ready for use with all extra equipment installed.

Old Dodge – Reineccius said he removed the toolboxes for use on another vehicle. He suggested the advertisement for its sale be run as soon as possible. The Board suggested that bids be opened at the May Regular Meeting.

HWY 61 Road Project & Haul Road – A virtual meeting with MNDOT was also discussed. Reineccius suggested that the Town take some of the material being hauled out of the road project on HWY 61. Voss said that there might be 500,000 yards. Voss also requested that photos of roads along the cemetery be taken to ensure MNDOT puts it back into the same or better quality after the hauling project. Reineccius said he heard from MNDOT that a new driveway connection to Loop may be needed.

Seasonal Storage – Reineccius suggested that storage items be removed weekdays instead of on the weekend to save overtime.

CTC Fiber Lines along Alger & Clark Roads – The Clerk reported that Consolidated Telephone Company called to ask if the town requires utility permits. The Board viewed a map on the overhead showing the fiber line they wish to run from the proposed AT&T Cell Tower along Alger Grade and Clark Road out to Highway 3. Hull questioned whether the Town is required to allow the easement, and whether it could be run across country under the power lines. Hull agreed to contact CTC and do some research on these issues.

General Sewer Operations – Operator Hoops said that things have been smooth other than 2 pump failures out at Gooseberry Cottages & Motel that were replaced last week.

Status of Accounts – The Board discussed payment of a second invoice on the overdue septage account.

Stewart River Wastewater Project – Voss reported that Bollig is applying for congressionally directed spending for 2023 as we did not receive that funding in 2022. The Board discussed the reporting of the Stewart River Engineering into the Treasury website as required by ARPA. Oftedah! reported that it likely won't work to report it as an infrastructure project and may have to be reported as an administrative one. Voss suggested getting some assistance from Bollig on this matter.

Correspondence – The following items were passed around for consideration:

- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement were circulated.
- Letter that appeared to be from a child requesting a map of the Town.
- Report of Nationwide Retirement Fund (deferred comp) performance was reviewed.

- Notification that DUNS numbers are going away and that Silver Creek must get a Unique Entity Identifier.
- Report that Silver Creek is in compliance with the Pay Equity laws of MN.
- Request to notify constituents of the Rural Development 504 Repair Program that provides low interest loans to low-income homeowners for repairs to their home.
- Notice of approval of Interim Use Application for Brenda Ringold for short term rental.

OLD BUSINESS

Mowing Contract – The Board considered Wycoff’s request for an upcharge to cover high fuel prices if gas goes above \$5 per gallon. This will be voted on next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Vacation – Oftedahl will be out of town from April 23- May 6. Anderson will be handling all Clerk duties during that time.

Road Tour and LBAE – The Board discussed the plan for May 3rd. Reineccius said that he and Thompson would cook lunch for everyone.

Replacement of office copier/scanner – Issues with scanning and copying of larger documents and errors when printing envelopes were discussed. The document feeder jams a lot even with shorter documents and the scans are coming out slightly diagonal. Cost concerns were discussed. Oftedahl and Anderson were asked to come back with a more specific proposal.

Board Reorganization – The Board considered pay rates.

- The Treasurer sent a request that her pay rate be increased by \$25 per month due to gas prices.
- Hull recommended the Clerk receive the same COLA increase that the other employees received in January (7%); and he proposed adding a longevity raise of 2% for five years’ service as was granted to Reineccius. These would result in a new wage of \$27.25 per hour. He noted that the Clerk’s hours should be less this year than last year as the Deputy Clerk takes on more responsibilities. Hull felt that the increase would not have a negative impact on the budget.
- Supervisor pay and per diem rates were discussed with Jaeger noting that some townships are paid more and with Oftedahl suggesting the Board also consider a COLA based upon the high gas prices.
- The Deputy Treasurer wage was discussed with suggestion to pay her at the per diem rates for meeting attendance and use the hourly wage only for work outside the meetings. These items will be voted on next week.

PENDING BUSINESS

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Jaeger. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk