

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

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

Visitors Present: From Bollig Engineering, Inc: Nathan Feist, and Mike Beard.

Absent: None

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns – No new concerns, but Hull reported that he had to call Seagren's to authorize replacement of the bike damaged by the Township (as decided when Kandice Szewcik came to a prior meeting).

STEWART RIVER WASTEWATER PROJECT

Mike Beard gave an update on the Bonding process saying that there won't be a special session this year. There is little agreement between the two parties. He said that even had there been a bonding bill approved, he didn't think our project was in it. However, he said there is a lot of surplus funding in St. Paul, and he has hopes for a Bonding Bill next year. He said the feedback that he got was that the project wasn't ready for prime time and there were still many things that could make the project better, however he didn't say what those were. The Board expressed concerns about spending any more time and money on this project considering it has been so difficult to get financial support. Mike Beard then requested the opportunity for Bollig to keep working on the project and said they would not invoice anything until funding is obtained. There were no objections to trying again for the next Bonding Bill.

ROAD AND SAFETY

Road Report – Reineccius reported that work for Lake County Forestry on the new culvert on West Clark Road been completed. He said mowing is still ongoing and he experimented with using a tractor that worked fine but then broke down. He requested purchase of new radios saying that batteries are not available for the old ones and that they are too heavy. He said currently only 1 of 4 has a working battery.

Part Time/On-Call Employee – Reineccius requested permission to hire an on-call position. He stated that Allen Anderson will work in an emergency but would rather retire. Hull suggested Conrad Swanson who knows our garage, our roads and how to pull a sewer pump due to having worked here before. Reineccius suggested Louie Larsen as he is retired from Lake County and knows roads and plowing well.

New Truck Delivery – Reineccius and Supervisors were able to admire the new tandem axle truck that was delivered today after waiting 2 years. Final registration papers were signed by Voss.

Gravel Pit Hearing – Oftedahl reported that the stormwater runoff plan had been completed by Anderson and that members of Planning and Zoning had conducted a site visit with Reineccius, Anderson, and herself last week. It was agreed that Anderson and Reineccius would attend the Hearing this Thursday night at 5:30 p.m.

Disaster Preparation – Oftedahl was able to install the app on her phone with no problem. It still needs to be loaded onto Thompson and Reineccius' phones when time permits.

New Driveway Access on Flood Bay – Reineccius said that that the final inspection is waiting on North Harbor Services to install in their new culvert.

GENERAL SEWER OPERATIONS

Operator's Report – Hoops presented his report. The system will be winterized soon. Repair on the lift station is still waiting on supply chain issues.

Mike Long Easement and Final Accounting – Oftedahl reported that the legal papers have been received from the Attorney and the next step is to have Longs come in to sign them. The accounting is complete except for the Attorney's invoice which has not yet been received.

Correspondence – The following items were passed around for consideration:

- From Lake County, the annual letter requesting certification of township road mileage used for gas tax. After discussion, it was agreed that the new extension road across from Loop Road will not actually be a Town Road and therefore does not increase our miles of Town Road.
- Letter from the Treasury Department stating that help desk support for ARPA has been reduced.
- From MN Association of Townships, a notice of training, Insurance survey, Newsletter, and Notice of Annual Conference.
- From Memory Keepers Medical Team, notification of the Lake County Age Friendly Survey and request to post it.
- Notification from ShelDon (our printer maintenance company) that they have merged with EO Johnson Business Technologies.
- Email from Laurel Buchanan regarding Lake County COW at Silver Creek next week. It explained that the Board will be considering short term vacation rentals and would like input from the Town Board.
- 4 approved Lake County Land Use Applications for Silver Creek properties.

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery Dispute – Oftedahl reported being informed that a Judge will decide the plot dispute on October 20th. Letters received show that one party has agreed to drop their claim to the open sites.

Cemetery Directory – The updated directory for the kiosk has not yet been received.

Burlington Road Two Harbors & Superior Shores Agreement – The Board discussed the fact that the project was completed prior to the contract proposal being presented to Silver Creek.

Email Hosting and Google Subscription – Oftedahl reported speaking to Matt Falk and to Ward Melenich about switching to less expensive email accounts. Two unused Town accounts have been deleted and Google is currently charging \$3 per account per month. Google indicated a potential increase next year, but a better alternative has not been identified.

Innis & Arrowhead Transit – Innis informed the Town that he had solved his problem by purchasing a van with a wheelchair lift. Oftedahl placed several calls to different agencies and companies and confirmed that there is no service outfitted with a wheelchair lift that provides transportation between rural Silver Creek and Two Harbors.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Clerk & Deputy Clerk Training in Cotton on 11/2 – No objections were voiced.

Approve Election Judge Mary Londborg – One more Judge is needed to replace Julia Jaeger who cannot serve this election. Londborg has previous judging experience in the Twin Cities and is now a resident of Silver Creek. Formal approval will be granted next week.

Snowplow Policy – The group reviewed last year's policy and will vote on it next week.

Lake County COW – This meeting will be held in Silver Creek next Tuesday at 6 p.m. All Supervisors are planning to attend.

PENDING BUSINESS

Seasonal Storage – Reineccius has about half the items placed into storage with the remaining customers stopping by in the next few days. He said everything is going well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Thursday, October 20 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk