

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday January 10, 2023, 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 (arrived 6:38 pm), and Greg Hull; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: none

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns

Anderson's Mailbox – Following up from last meeting, Reineccius was asked whether their mailbox had been replaced. He said there were two in the shop and either he or Thompson would take care of it in the next couple days.

Jeff Yalatapa – Reineccius reported that Yalatapa, a school bus driver, asked him if he could plow the Valhalla turnaround earlier so the bus doesn't get stuck. The Board was fine with that.

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported plowing, sanding and removing down trees has been ongoing.

Grader Tire – The tire was replaced and Reineccius said that Thompson was out grading with it today. It was hard to start due to being parked in the Cold Storage building and still having some summer fuel in it. The high cost of fuel was discussed. Hull asked about ridges in the Alger Grade Road. Reineccius said they were caused by the belly blade of the new truck.

Supervisor Jaeger joined the meeting at this point.

Part Time On-Call Employee – Reineccius and Hull plan to interview the applicant on Friday afternoon.

Gravel Pit Next Steps – Reineccius reported dropping the excavator at the Pit for snow and brush management. Anderson reported receiving a quote from Jessie Dewey at Harbor Insurance for the Reclamation Bond. It will be \$300 per year with the first 2 payments due up front. The cost was challenged as it seemed high. Hull volunteered to speak to some contacts at the County to ask if they could waive the bond requirement. Jaeger asked what we're expecting to gain from the pit. Reineccius said that sand, rock and black dirt can be excavated. It was estimated that possibly 12,000 yards of material could be removed from the site. Lake County Highway Department will loan us their screener for rock. Sand is not just for winter roads but for back fill on sewer projects. The black dirt can be used with sewer installs or in the Cemetery.

General Sewer Operations

Operator Hoops was not in attendance.

Repair of Lift Stations – Reineccius reported that the repaired pump for Lift Station 1 was installed with great difficulty. He said that the repair cost almost as much as purchasing new. He said that Wiikwaiban Inini did not find any problem with Lift Station 2 even though the alarm has been going off. Reineccius said that we could do more repairs ourselves if we bought a meter for the sewer gasses. Voss brought up the fact that we need to follow up on false alarms and unresolved issues now that there is balance in the Sewer Fund.

PFAS Cost Recovery Program – Documents from Minnesota Rural Water encouraging all members to sign up for a "Cost Recovery Program" at were reviewed. Oftedahl reported that Operator Hoops suggested we sign up. But because the link goes to a law firm and states "Join the PFAS Lawsuit", Oftedahl wanted to get Board approval first. After reading the letter, the Board requested more information on what PFA chemicals are, and whether this would be necessary for a wastewater system.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that we heard from Commissioner Sve that Representative Skraba wants to sponsor the project and needed Bollig contacts. Oftedahl sent the name for head engineer and lobbyist. Hull reported a call with Mike Beard (the lobbyist) who said that we are not in the first Bonding Bill, but that

Skraba wants to put Stewart River in a second planned Bonding Bill. Voss said he called Nathan Feist to make sure he follows up and that Bollig also communicate with our new Senator, Grant Hauschild.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

Letter from Minnesota Rural Water and National Rural Water encouraging the Town to register with the PFAS Cost Recovery Program.

Email from Laurel Buchanen, Clerk of the Lake County Board, requesting use of our Meeting Room on Tuesday October 17 2023, for the Lake County COW. This was approved and is already on our schedule.

From Nationwide, the Fourth Quarter Investment Summary for the Employee Deferred Compensation Program.

Letter of Credit from Park State Bank.

Annual Interest statement from US Bank for funds held based upon a land use issue years ago. The Board discussed the need to update the individuals eligible to sign for this. Currently only Treasurer Pellman is an authorized signer. Voss asked whether other paperwork such as a Resolution would be needed to add him as signer. The group discussed whether this decision could be vacated, the funds returned to the homeowner and Lake County as the new Zoning Authority could start over on the issue.

Email from MATIT regarding weather-related insurance claims.

MAT December Newsletter. The group discussed Township Day at the Capitol – we do not have anyone available to go to it at this point.

Affidavit of Posting of Board Meeting Dates was signed.

Lake County Land Use Hearing Notice and Lake County Interim Use Application for a vacation rental.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

COLA Increases for Employees – The final annual inflation rate for 2022 used for employee raises will be released later this week according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics website. Hull said he expected it to be about 7%.

Mileage Rate – The Board viewed the new rate of \$0.655 per mile released by the IRS on December 29th. The motion to set the Town's mileage reimbursement will be next week.

2023 Fees – The Board considered whether to increase rates for Cemetery plots, burial, new driveway access, and hall rental. They viewed financials. There was consensus that these rates do not need to be increased. Rate Resolutions will be up for approval next week.

Personnel Reviews – Hull asked Oftedahl to send the evaluation forms to him for the review.

PENDING BUSINESS

Payment Status for Repair to W Clark – Oftedahl reported that payment has now been received.

OTHER

Filing Period – The Board was informed that Chris Jaeger would not be running for re-election.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Jaeger. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk