

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
April 11, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday April 11, 2023, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Chuck Voss, Greg Hull and Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedah; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius, Wastewater Operator Mike Hoops, and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Chris Jaeger

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

Then, motion Voss, second Hull to recess the meeting for the purpose of convening the CDSSD Wastewater Rate Hearing. Carried unanimously.

Voss reconvened this meeting at 7:07 p.m. with the same attendees still present.

Constituent Concerns

None

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported that he repaired a stop sign on East Castle Danger, fixed Dorothy Peter's mailbox support, and that he would make some repairs to mailboxes on Loop Road tomorrow. He said there is a recall on the new Dodge and because it is a fire risk upon ignition, that he would be parking that truck outside. Jaeger asked about flow issues with a culvert on East Castle Danger. Hull asked about a developing sink hole on Clark Road.

Seasonal Storage Removal – Reineccius reported that pickup of storage items has been extended until the first of May.

Gravel Pit – Reineccius said he went up to burn brush at the pit, but could not get in due to snow.

General Sewer Operations

Reineccius said he will travel to meet with Tracy Finch of MPCA to go over his test results and receive tutoring for the Class C license. He reported that very few people can pass the test. Hull expressed frustration with MPCA for preventing licensure of those who are actually running sewer systems. The group then discussed options for licensed operators including having Hoops retire, but continue as consultant operator or hiring Eric Appelwick to serve as licensed operator. Jaeger spoke up to say he had experience with Appelwick and thought he was a quality operator. Hoops said he suspected that Appelwick would likely cost more than what the Town is currently spending.

Wastewater Operator's Report – The group read the report and identified one typo to be corrected for next week's meeting.

Repair of Lift Stations – Reineccius reported that the patch blew off a repaired pipe at Lift Station 1, and that Mike Nelson will be coming up Friday to look at it. He currently does repairs for Silver Bay, and Beaver Bay, and is familiar with our system.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that he has not heard any news on this project.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Notice of receipt of \$3,618 in 2021 Tax Forfeit Apportionment funds from Lake County.
- Letter from bank noting that they must be informed by 2:30 pm of large deposits so that they can get letters of credit to insure the funds.
- Safety Recall notice from Dodge stating that a vehicle fire can result from the intake air grid heater relay.

- Letter from MATIT with our insurance premium for buildings, vehicles, and heavy equipment, showing an increase of 9.8% due to increased costs at MATIT. Payment is not yet due – the breakdown for each item was included along with pricing if deductibles are changed. Reineccius is taking a look at it.
- Notice from MATIT of resignation of District 10 Director Jim Fisher. The group encouraged Hull to consider the position.
- Mowing quote from Mark Wycoff for \$8,000, up from \$7,000 last year was reviewed. He is offering that price for 3 years.
- Email answer from Attorney Fenske regarding re-opening the Annual Meeting in August for purpose of potentially changing the levy. He stated that it can be done, but that there are a couple technicalities that make it not the best practice. These include the need to consider the levy in its assigned place on the agenda, and the question of whether it would be a violation of laws surrounding “motion to reconsider”.
- Wastewater Compliance Summary from MPCA – Hull asked why five of the discharge reports were late and Hoops stated they were only a couple days late.
- Phone message from Liz Busa thanking the crew for their plowing and for not leaving a plow berm across her road.
- From Lake County, one notice of Hearing, one Variance decision, one Interim Use decision and two approved Land Use Applications.

OLD BUSINESS

Thompson Review – Hull said he has not yet scheduled with Thompson. Hull added that he wishes to institute a monthly staff meeting to be attended by employees and himself on the same Thursday as the COW Meeting week at 3 p.m. for the purpose of discussing ongoing work and any staff issues. He also reported receiving an anonymous letter about an employee that he felt was not legitimate.

NEW BUSINESS

Mowing Contract – The Board looked at Wycoff’s quoted price -- no objections were voiced.

Bank Signatory – Next week a new resolution for authorized signers, adding new Supervisor Scott Krech and removing Chris Jaeger must be passed.

LBAE Preparation – The Board asked the Clerk to contact the Assessor to ask if they could have a visit from one of the Assessor’s staff the week before to better prepare for the Hearing. Oftedahl agreed to follow up.

Plan Road Tour – Road Tour is May 9 – food and transportation details were not yet set.

Board Reorganization – The Board considered the Reorganization items up for vote next week. Hull asked if they should rotate the Chairmanship and Voss said he doesn’t mind keeping it. The Treasurer’s wage was discussed. Changing the Town Attorney to Daniel Doda was considered. He will now be living in the Township and is a highly regarded attorney. Hoops agreed to speak to him.

PENDING BUSINESS

None

OTHER

Oftedahl requested and was granted permission to purchase an adjustable metal shelf for the utility room to get the large amount of cleaning solutions up off the floor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk