

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday February 8, 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!; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius; and via phone, Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson. Hull arrived at 7 p.m. and apologized for his late entrance.

Absent: Wastewater Operator Mike Hoops.

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Road and Safety – Reineccius reported that snow plowing was the main activity. He successfully replaced parts on the pickup plow that had broken twice. He reported that he was in the process of repairing the heater in the pumper truck. He was able to find some of the needed parts but is still trying to purchase the rest.

Possible Replacement of Dodge Pickup – Voss noted that ARPA funds cannot be spent until April, but they can be used for truck purchase. Reineccius said that he would rather find and purchase a low mileage used vehicle than wait a year for an order on a new one. He said good trucks are out there, but you have to be able to act fast. The Board discussed various makes and models and possible costs. Reineccius said that he could install dump box and plow himself. Action next week to authorize an amount to be spent.

Tandem Axel Truck Financing – The Board reviewed numbers sent by the Mid-State Truck Financing Manager. Upon viewing documents, Jaeger spotted issues with the numbers. The pricing and the total amount of the loan seemed off. Reineccius will follow-up with the Sales Manager on pricing and Oftedah! will follow up on why the loan amount appears to be off.

Constituent Concerns – Hull spoke on behalf of Silver Creek constituents who attended the Lake County Planning and Zoning Hearing held for a planned AT&T 325-foot cell tower. He requested that Supervisors write a letter to Lake County to request that other locations be considered and to protest the rules at the Hearing that prevented some attendees from speaking their mind. The rules for the Hearing did not allow comments on any concerns already raised by another speaker. After lengthy discussion, in which Jaeger pushed that some things like towers or hog farms are never going to be popular with neighbors, it was agreed that Hull draft a letter that could be considered and voted upon next week.

General Sewer Operations – Reineccius reported that the Operator's Report was not yet available, but everything was running well with no failures or call outs.

Status of Accounts – Voss reported that we have not yet received payment on the past due septage account. He suggested a letter be sent followed by changing the lock on the gate until payment for last year is received.

Stewart River Wastewater Project – Voss reported that he read the full Preliminary Engineering Report. He did not find issues with it.

Correspondence – The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Email from Crystal Bay Township inviting the Silver Creek Board to a meeting for the Silver Bay Airport. The Board declined to have a response sent.
- Copy of check received in January with Fiscal Disparity and NTC tax payments.
- Letter from Silver Bay Fire projecting \$11,502 for 2022 fire protection.
- January MAT Newsletter.
- Approved Conditional Use Application from Lake County for a communication tower off Alger Grade.

- 1 approved Lake County Land Use application.
- Quarterly summary of investment activity in the Silver Creek Deferred Compensation Plan.
- OSHA Form 300A showing zero workplace injuries for last year.
- MN Benefit Association life insurance premium and invoice. Decision to be made next week regarding coverage level. Question was raised about whether one Supervisor can decline this coverage and save Board money.
- Confirmation of submission of CTAS financial report to the State Auditor.
- Letter from St Louis County Planning and Community Development Department regarding participation in the Joint Powers Agreement for the HOME Program assistance.
- Email from the Attorney stating that yes, ARPA funds may be used to replace the town pickup.

OLD BUSINESS

MAT and Lake County Association of Township Dues – The Clerk reported that the invoice includes \$381 for the Lake County Association of Township dues and \$410 for the Minnesota Association of Townships. The Lake County Association Clerk did not know how the dues would be used. However, MAT said their dues are for training and the magazine. Dawn Zimmerman from MATIT emailed that the Township must be a dues paying member of MAT in order to participate in the MATIT insurance program. The Clerk received permission to prepare payment for the invoice.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the Budget – No changes were made to the numbers developed in the working meeting.

Approve Proposed Levy – No changes were made to the numbers developed in the working meeting.

Approve Election Judges and Absentee Ballot Board – will be set next week.

Board of Audit – Not discussed.

Annual Meeting Plan – After discussion, considering that the Election cannot be rescheduled, the Board must come on site for the Board of Canvass, it was agreed to proceed with an in-person Annual Meeting on March 8.

Newsletter Approval – The Board read an incomplete and error-filled draft of the Newsletter. Some suggestions were made – the Clerk will bring a better draft to next week's meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, February 15th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk