

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JUNE 13, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday June 13, 2023, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Greg Hull, Chuck Voss, and Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedah!; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius; Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson; and, arriving halfway through the meeting, Wastewater Operator Hoops.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: None

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns: None

Due to Reineccius and Hoops not being present at the start of the meeting, Roads and Sewer were moved later in the agenda.

### **Stewart River Wastewater Project**

Voss reported that our project was not named in the 2023 Bonding Bill that passed. He said Bollig would work for agency funding, and he said he believed that the PFA received \$230 million not \$230 thousand as reported in our Newsletter. The Board also reviewed a letter from Bollig saying that they are currently working on an agreement with Two Harbors regarding user fees.

### **Road and Safety**

Road Report – Reineccius reported that Paul was working on gravel and that he had run chloride to the City of Silver Bay in trade for some dump truck assistance later this summer. Reineccius informed the Board that he may be submitting a resignation due to personal issues.

Gravel Pit – Hull read a letter received from Christine McCarthy at Lake County stating that she received an anonymous tip that petroleum was spilled at our pit. She said she visited and saw a spill and found “a small petroleum tank” lodged in the brush pile. The County is requiring immediate clean up and removal of contaminated soil. Hull directed Reineccius to go with Thompson to clean this up first thing tomorrow.

Because Operator Hoops was not yet at the meeting, Chairman Hull then called for correspondence to be reviewed.

### **Correspondence**

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Letter from Christine McCarthy of Lake County Environmental Services regarding gravel pit petroleum spill.
- Email from Lana Fralich, City of Silver Bay Administrator asking Silver Creek if they are willing to enter into a joint agreement to form an Airport Authority that would run the Silver Bay Airport.
- Letter from Kris Ambuehl of Bollig regarding bonding for Stewart River and their work on a user agreement with Two Harbors for it.
- MAT membership cards for the Board were received and distributed.
- Email received from PFA confirming payoff of the Castle Danger Sewer Loan that was actually paid off early in 2019.
- Letter drafted by Deputy Clerk with estimate for chloride application at Gooseberry Falls State Park Campground.
- Letter from Minnesota State Demographic Center showing population estimate of 1,262 people.
- Approved driveway access permit for Pat Hubbard on Town Road.
- Affidavit of Posting of Hazard Mitigation Information was signed.
- Notice of decision by Lake County for Interim Use Permit.
- Notice from Lake County of Public Hearing for Variance request.

- Email regarding removal of hot tub for IUP compliance.
- 6 Approved Lake County Land Use Applications for *New Structures*.
- 4 Approved Lake County Land Use Applications for *Grade and Fill*. The Board discussed the Lake County application submitted by North Harbors Services and also from last year the Silver Creek driveway access permit for the same business. There was confusion about whether all their work was compliant and where the property line was. Silver Creek was told that no new driveway was put in off Flood Bay after the permit was pulled. The Clerk asked whether the refundable deposit should be returned to them even if the driveway was not put in. Hull had the application and policy brought into the meeting and it was discovered that the permit expired 90 days after issuance. The refund of the deposit can now be issued.

### **General Sewer Operations**

Operator Hoops presented the Operator's Report. Pump 2 has not yet been repaired and calibrations have not been able to be done. Hoops said three different grinders failed in the past month, two at Grand Superior and one at Sve's rental property.

New Installs – Rostvold and Gerard have paid their installation costs and will be connected this summer if their construction goes as planned. Hoops said we have most of the equipment on hand except for two saddles.

New Septage Hauler – Matt Lundgren is being mentored and wishes to dump in our ponds. The Clerks have sent him the contract and are awaiting paperwork.

Sewer Operations Vendor – Reineccius reported he has spoken to Appelwick and Miller about serving as licensed operators. He is in the process of getting more information.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Gordon Variance and US Bank Signatories – No response has been received from Lake County about the legality of this situation.

Regional Airport Request – Voss summarized information on the request and his attendance at meetings. He noted that it is not a good deal financially for Silver Creek to carry a large percentage of the obligations and to have to pay 41-44% of the 5-10% match of a nine-million-dollar project. Hull recounted his proposal to Silver Bay several years ago when Silver Creek was considering sponsoring the airport. The Silver Bay City Council said it was a bad deal for Silver Creek constituents. Hull stated that if it was a bad idea then, it's an even worse idea now. None of the Supervisors spoke in favor of the idea.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Town Attorney Decision – The Board considered the two attorneys Scott Witty and Daniel Doda and the current rates quoted. Witty's quoted rate is \$60 less per hour. A vote will be taken on this issue next week.

Insurance Project – The Board discussed concerns with MATIT. Then Hull reported that information was all submitted to Harbor Insurance, and we are waiting for a quote. He also explained that the Clerk researched insurance through the Minnesota League of Cities and the Township does not currently qualify for their insurance (although membership is allowed). Silver Creek electors would have to vote for Urban Town Powers in order for Silver Creek to qualify. The Clerk asked whether we should go ahead with paying the renewal on MATIT insurance as the current policy expires at the end of this month. Hull said yes, go ahead.

Repaired Pavilion Door – The Board viewed pictures of the repaired Pavilion Door.

### **OTHER**

Repair of Historic Hall – Supervisor Krech asked about plans for the Historic Hall and what maintenance repairs have been done in the past. He expressed interest in saving the building as well as keeping up with maintenance and also suggested that the people of Silver Creek be asked what they want. Hull suggested bringing a specific plan. The Clerk was asked to locate the list of needed repairs and the most recent contractor estimate received by the Town. The group also discussed the possibility of a special meeting and whether that should be a meeting for feedback and ideas only or a presentation of a proposal. Nothing was decided.

Hull cancelled this week's staff meeting saying that he would meet with Reineccius rather than the entire staff in order to discuss the issues that were causing Reineccius to consider resignation.

Then, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Krech. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk