

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
February 14, 2023

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday February 14, 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, and Greg Hull; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius and (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: None

Chairman Voss called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Constituent Concerns

Kevin Hudson's visit to the Clerk's Office was discussed. Hudson requested copies of minutes from five years ago, which were provided. Hudson told the Clerk that the No Trespassing signs on the Town Gravel Pit are illegal in his view. He also relayed issues with Lake County. Both Hull and Reineccius said they had spoken with Hudson in the past regarding his issues. The Board believes that our signs are legal.

Road and Safety

Reineccius reported that he will be going to DOT class on March 2nd and taking the Wastewater exam on March 9th. He said he has been working on the trucks and trailers and that the grader tire is fixed.

Part Time On-Call – Reineccius reported that the candidate declined the offer. When Supervisors asked why, he said he preferred not to say. He is interested in another candidate as an emergency backup, but that with winter almost over, it might be a non-issue until next winter. Voss suggested that future candidates have the class B driver's license.

Concrete – The Board discussed whether or not and how to fix the concrete that is spalling outside the office. This cracking and delaminating is believed to be an issue caused by the original pour seven years ago.

Gravel Pit – Reineccius said he has been burning brush at the Gravel Pit. The Clerk asked Hull about the waiver for the reclamation bond required by our CUP and Hull said he would check with Russ Conrow but that the County Board will be making a motion on this.

General Sewer Operations

Reineccius reported that he had a callout last week to LeRoger Lind's property for a problem and had to dig his way in and then go back the next morning to pump and repair the system.

Operator's Report – The Board read Hoops' written report (included in February Regular Meeting minutes).

Repair of Lift Stations – Operator Hoop's report stated that "Lift Station #1 -Pump #2 has been installed and is running, but correct wiring of the pump remains to be done. The patch on the pipe is holding, but this is short term fix only. It is still in an alarm mode, and we can't get an explanation as to why. Eric Appelwick and his electrician will be up when we have a warm day to work on this issue."

At this point Reineccius left the meeting due to poor roads requiring sanding or chip rock.

Stewart River Wastewater Project

Voss reported that Bollig will break the project into several smaller projects in order to reduce the funding request and make it easier to pass. He said they would try to include the area from just outside Two Harbors up to Stewart River.

Correspondence

The following items were passed around for consideration:

- Letter from MATIT regarding theft via email fraud of more than \$800,000 in premiums.
- MAT Newsletter including notice of April 7th Spring Short Course training Duluth. The Clerk stated that she and Anderson would like to attend and that the newly elected Supervisor would benefit also.

- Letter from Silver Bay regarding fire protection costs showing \$8,081.18 due for last year and estimating \$10,180.98 due next year.
- 1 signed Hall Rental Agreement for April.
- Email from Jason DiPiazza of Lake County inviting everyone to an Emerald Ash Borer Workshop.
- Email from RMB of price increases in testing of wastewater.
- MAT notice of fraudulent impersonation emails.
- Governor Walz' Weekly Briefing email stating that by 2040, Minnesota will go to 100% clean electricity.
- 2 Notices of Public Hearings for vacation rental applications in Silver Creek.
- Newspaper Notice regarding a cell tower planned to be built on Alger Grade – Hull raised some questions on this project and the Clerk agreed to follow up.
- Thank you note from Dave Fellon.

OLD BUSINESS

Personnel Reviews – Hull reported that he is working on these.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Audit –CTAS Cash Control reports and the end-of-year bank statement showing that the Clerk and Treasurer match the bank and each other were viewed. CTAS ledger reports along with the other documentation was passed around. It was also noted that the Board had viewed all expenses paid in 2022 at the Budget/Levy Working Meeting last week. No issues or questions were raised.

Proposed Budget/Levy – The Board reviewed the completed spreadsheet that came out of last week's working meeting and a draft of the Annual Meeting handout with the proposed \$440,000 levy and \$632,350 budget. No errors or changes were identified at this point.

Election Judges and Absentee Ballot Board – Motion Voss, second Jaeger to approve the following individuals as Election Judges and Absentee Ballot Board members for 2023: Phil Sogge, Shele Hull, Deb Cooter, John Bathke, Katie Anderson and Alison Oftedahl. Carried unanimously. The Clerk explained that 3 judges are scheduled for the Township Election, with John Bathke listed only as an emergency backup and Oftedahl and Anderson listed only as fill-ins during judge meal-breaks.

Newsletter – An unfinished draft of the March newsletter was reviewed. Changes were noted. A more complete copy will be brought next week for approval.

PENDING BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk