

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
August 10, 2021

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday August 10, 2021, 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; Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson, Town Operations and Facilities Assistant Paul Thompson.

Absent: Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius and Sewer Operator Mike Hoops.

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

Constituent Concerns – None.

Road and Safety – Thompson reported progress on mowing but also another break down with the mower. It is being repaired. He also reported fixing the Gooseberry River Bridge on Alger Grade. Spikes have been pounded back in and new hot mix applied over the surface. He reviewed the big storm in which he came in at night to clear fallen trees off the road, slept at the shop and continued with more clearing the next morning. He said there is still clean-up of storm debris that needs to be cleared from the cemetery.

General Sewer Operations – There was no Operator's report yet, but Thompson reported that algaecide was applied the last couple weeks and that the irrigation should be done for the entire season in about a week. The combination of drought conditions and irrigation have brought pond levels way down. All work was done on the three new connections to the Christensen parcels except for clean out of one newly installed shut-off that is blocked by debris. Thompson received training from Hoops on use of Fleet Zoom.

Stewart River Wastewater Project – Voss reported meeting with Bollig last week to view a new project map. He said that Bollig suggested laying out areas for future expansion (phase two and even three) so that years down the road these are part of original considerations and engineering. The Board discussed what areas would be best for future expansions. There was general consensus that future phases should include forty acres at the end of Silver Cliff Road, and up Highway 3 to the Railway Suites Hotel. In discussing possibly running sewer service to Press Camp Road, Cedar Road, Fors Road or farther up Highway 3, there were more questions. Cost concerns and maintenance expenses were brought up. Hull noted that it wouldn't be paid for by levy, it would be paid by user fees.

Correspondence – The following items were passed around for consideration:

- MAT notification of District 10 meetings and election notice.
- MN MMB Notification of ARPA first half funds received in the amount of \$61,585.51.
- Email from EDA in regard to webinar on ARPA.
- Notification of 2022 Town Aid in the amount of \$8,853 and a comparison to 2021 Town Aid of \$9,470 was reviewed.
- 3 signed Hall Rental Agreements were circulated.
- Email from Katelyn Johnson of the Lake County Highway Department confirming payment of 2015 Castle Danger Road Project was received. The Clerk was directed to ensure this is retained in the filing cabinet.
- MN Rural Water certification of Membership was received.
- 2 Hearing Notices for Land Use Issues and 7 approved Land Use Applications from Lake County were reviewed.
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> Lake County Public Health Newsletter showing 7 active COVID cases.

## OLD BUSINESS

Highway 61 New Frontage Road Maintenance Agreement – The draft Resolution created by MN DOT did not have maintenance defined and Hull suggested editing it to contain the phrase “solely and exclusively limited to removing snow”. The Clerk agreed to edit the Resolution and email it to Hull who agreed to make any final changes before next week’s meeting.

Park State Bank Conversion – The Clerk reported that Deputy Anderson now has access to the bank site after last month’s Resolution was forwarded to the bank. The formal signatory form should be received from the bank by next week’s meeting. There were some difficulties with the emailed bank statement as the attached .pdf files could not be opened by Clerk or Treasurer. The work around is to login to the bank website and print from there. Hull reported meeting with Debbie Ruberg where he was informed that there have been technical issues due to merging three bank systems. And, that laws and bank regulations mean they cannot take address changes from anyone but the individual person for those who are in their computer system.

## NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Call-In Backup – The Board considered Thompson’s call in for the big storm in which he went out alone to clear trees due to Reineccius being on vacation. Voss stated that for safety reasons there should always be two people out in those sorts of middle of the night hazard situations. In discussion, it was noted that Hull did offer to go out with Thompson. The group agreed that two people should go out and that the employee on duty should contact the on-call person (Allen Anderson) and if that fails, get a supervisor, even if this means driving to their home to pick them up. It was agreed that likely a written policy is not necessary if everyone agrees to this solution.

Resolution to Accept Donated Chairs – The Board discussed donation of approximately 20 metal folding chairs dropped off by Hoops on behalf of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. It was questioned whether donations should be dropped off prior to the Board accepting them. In this case, we now have three mismatched types of chairs. Thompson agreed to view and count the chairs. The Resolution will be voted upon in next week’s Regular meeting.

Technology and Website – The Clerk reviewed recent problems with the document feeder used for copies and scans on the old Xerox printer. It is working for the moment after a call to Xerox. The second issue is the town website on Google Classic Sites that will no longer be available after September 1 according to Google. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk have been working on the conversion to new Google Sites. The Board was shown a preview and it was noted that the free site may not have the URL we want and cannot be monetized in the future. It uses templates and has some design limitations. The Board expressed concern that it may be more cost effective to hire a professional website designer and now may be the time. Hull is requesting an estimate from Matt Falk, a local designer recommended by Pure Driven. The Clerk will work on converting the site to ensure that posting online continues until a newer more professional site can be designed.

Deputy Pay Cycle – The Clerk requested to pay the Deputy Clerk biweekly with the employees instead of monthly with the Board. The change would not affect expenses, pay or the funds from which payment is made. It was suggested that possibly this should have been done from the start based upon Deputies not being formally part of the Board. Oftedahl was given the go-ahead to do this.

## PENDING BUSINESS

Ukulele Festival Preparations – Dale Moe is arriving next Tuesday to begin set-up for the event and has hired a cleaning company. The weeds at the site used for parking (the ice rink) need cutting. In planning, Thompson reported that campfires are not allowed right now due to new fire restrictions during this drought period.

Newsletter Story Approval – A draft copy was reviewed, and it was agreed to move the Tom Peterson story to the front page and downsize the website story to a notification of changes coming. A more complete draft will be provided to Supervisors at next week’s Regular Meeting.

Silver Bay Airport Meeting – Hull requested permission to attend a phone meeting with the Mayor of Silver Bay based upon an invitation received from Mike Beard (of Bollig). There were no objections.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk