

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
June 8, 2021

The Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday June 8, 2021, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Chuck Voss and Greg Hull; Clerk Alison Oftedah!; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius.

Absent: Supervisor Chris Jaeger and Wastewater 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 – Reineccius reported roads were graded, several mailbox posts were installed, and seven of the roads had chloride applied. Rain is needed before any more grading or chloride application can be done. He reported that brushing on the Beaver Dam Road was completed and that he is happy with the work done by Josh Hull on that project.

Truck Purchase – Reineccius said that the truck delivery date is forecast for early January.

General Sewer Operations – Operator Hoops was absent but had submitted his Wastewater Operator's report. Reineccius reported that they were working on water transfer and that irrigation has been started. He said that another tank up at the treatment ponds has a leak. They will be able repair it in-house this time.

Delinquent Accounts – The Clerk reported that the account transfer documents for Rustic Restaurant have not been completed by the new owners. The May invoice has not been paid. They have been sent a second copy of all documents this week. The Board directed the Clerk to write a letter setting the payment deadline to avoid service cut off.

Stewart River Wastewater Project – The application for Congressionally Directed Funding was completed and the Board reviewed what Bollig had submitted. No word has been received on whether this funding will be awarded to Silver Creek. Next the Board looked at a draft Resolution needed for the application for 2022 State Bonding funds. The Resolution includes a new cost based upon a collection system (only) and a regional approach. Bollig has calculated 12 million for the collection system. The Clerk is working on access to the State's Budget system so that the bonding request can be keyed in by next week's deadline of June 18. The Resolution must be signed and attached to the online request by the same date. Voss summarized his research on Superior Shores status. He is still waiting for some answers from the County regarding past special assessments. Then, the Clerk presented information on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that showed that funds may be used for access to infrastructure including wastewater. The Board reviewed documentation showing Silver Creek may receive \$130,000 across two years. Considering the ARPA funding, Hull and Voss felt that this puts Bollig's Task 2 request in a new light. Bollig proposed \$85,000 for updating the engineering and environmental reports and pursuing funding. It was suggested that Silver Creek negotiate with Bollig on this amount and plan to utilize this year's ARPA funds for the work. With regard to the project as a whole, Voss and Hull felt that negotiating the user agreement with Two Harbors is the highest priority task.

Correspondence – The following items were passed around for consideration:

- 2 Hall Rental Agreements were circulated.
- Director's Resolution from Park State Bank assuring Pledge Of Security for towns funds.
- Letter drafted by Clerk to Lake County in regard to Liquor License for Rustic Inn LLC.
- Advocacy Alert and info on ARPA from Minnesota Association of Townships.
- Copy of Silver Creek's Congressionally Directed Spending request as prepared by Bollig was reviewed.
- COVID Situation Updates showing active cases in the county last week at 6.

- 11 Approved Land Use Applications and Hearing Minutes from Lake County were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

US Bank Certificate of Deposit for Gordon Variance – No change on this project.

\$10,000 Invoice from the 2015 E Castle Danger Culvert Project – Payment is planned for July.

Highway 61 New Frontage Road Maintenance Agreement – The Clerk reported that we have not received the agreement but did receive a phone call from MN DOT stating the agreement draft is almost done.

NEW BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – The Board viewed the League of Minnesota Cities slide show overview of the program. Silver Creek is expected to receive \$130,000 with half coming this year and half next. A draft resolution to accept the funds was examined and one edit was suggested. A revised copy will be presented for a vote next week.

Cemetery Possible Rule Change – The group discussed removing text that requires markers to be in the foot position with some agreement. The group also discussed whether markers must be flat or not. The Clerk reported she has not had time to revise the document and so the topic may need to be carried over to next month.

Annual Meeting Planning – Supervisors discussed their presentations and need to plan for a moderator. The Clerk requested paper copy of speeches planned for the meeting and offered to type them if needed.

Proposed Board Meeting Schedule Change –Lake County would like to conduct their COW meeting in our Board room Tuesday Oct 19. This would require Silver Creek to move October meetings to October 5th and 12th. The Clerk noted that there would be some claims not arrived by that date, but the group felt it was fine to pay them off cycle by Clerk, Treasurer and Chairman. Voss and Hull were in support, decision to be made next week.

Regional Airport Proposal – Chairman Voss reported on his attendance at a meeting hosted by the new mayor of Silver Bay to discuss developing a 4-member group to sponsor the airport. Voss reported that he did not see any benefit to Silver Creek in participating in a regional airport plan.

Actively Involved Deputy Clerk Needed – The Clerk brought up issues with not having a backup available to actually work in the office. Deputy Kleive is very knowledgeable and provided many hours at elections last year but is not available to come to meetings and has a full-time job preventing service in the office during business hours. These things have prevented the Clerk from taking vacation and do not provide for a solid emergency backup plan. Hull stated that it would be good to recruit an actively involved Deputy Clerk. Some names were mentioned, and the Clerk agreed to follow up on those suggestions.

PENDING BUSINESS

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m. upon motion Voss, second Hull. Carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk