

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 12, 2013

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Silver Creek, in the County of Lake, and State of Minnesota, at the Silver Creek Town Hall on the 12th day of March 2013 was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Clerk – Frederick R. Whitney. Rich Sve was chosen to preside as Moderator at the meeting.

Motion by Mike Hoops, second Leroger Lind to approve the agenda. Carried unanimously.

Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were approved as presented upon motion by Jane Wick, second Elaine Hanson. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer report was approved as written upon motion by Albertine Ricard, second Elaine Hanson. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Tom Peterson, second Elaine Hanson to set the date, time and place of the next annual meeting for March 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Fred Whitney asked for a friendly amendment that if it is required by State Statute to have the meeting after elections, then the meeting be set at 8:15. The amendment was accepted. Motion failed.

Motion by Tom Peterson, second Bill Stokinger to set the date, time and place of the next annual meeting for March 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Fred Whitney again asked for a friendly amendment that if it is required by State Statute to have the meeting after elections, then the meeting be set at 8:15. The amendment was accepted. Motion carried.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon further review, State Statute MS – 365.51, MS – 204C.03, “No public meeting between 6 pm and 8 pm for townships holding elections”...”Minimum election hours 5 pm to 8 pm.” MS – 205.175. Therefore, the **next annual meeting will be held March 11, 2014 at 8:15 p.m. at the Silver Creek Town Hall.**

Levy & Budget: Greg Hull spoke to the changes and creation of the 2014 Budget and levy. Motion by Tom Peterson, second Rachelle Hull to accept the proposed budget and levy payable for 2014 as follows:

2014 LEVY	
General	\$85,650
Road & Bridge	\$163,500
Rd Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$22,250
Fire	\$22,100
Cemetery	<u>\$1,100</u>
SUB TOTAL	\$314,600
Sewer Taxes	<u>\$5,714</u>
TOTAL LEVY	\$320,314
Sewer assessments	\$136,500
Sewer user fees	<u>\$104,750</u>
SEWER RECEIPTS	<u>\$241,250</u>
TOTAL LEVY + RECEIPTS	\$561,564
2014 BUDGET	
General	\$78,250
Road & Bridge	\$290,100
Rd Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$12,250
Fire	\$40,000
Cemetery	<u>\$2,700</u>
SUB TOTAL	\$443,300
Sewer debt	\$107,000
Sewer OMR	<u>\$95,500</u>
TOTAL SEWER	<u>\$202,500</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$645,800

Further discussion followed about various fund balances and how The Town was able to absorb the costs incurred during the June 2012 flood. It was noted that Silver Creek has received reimbursement of most costs through FEMA and the State disaster funds. A transition plan for the Road Foreman's anticipated retirement sometime in 2014 has required an increase to the budget for staffing costs. An addition to The Town garage is anticipated and has also increased the budget. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

- Board Chairman Mike Hoops gave the following year-end report –

March 12, 2013

ANNUAL MEETING – TOWN OF SILVER CREEK – Talking Points

2012 began as what we intended to be an average year. The March election saw a new supervisor on the board and work was progressing well in the spring. A 4 inch rain in May did not disrupt progress, with little or no problems on the roads.

The chain came off the bicycle in June however, when a 10 inch rain hit the township. Rick and I were setting barricades after midnight and began checking roads just before daylight. We had a disaster on our hands. The town board met that morning to look at options and I left to find trucks and equipment as we had no phone service at the time.

Over the past several years, at the advice of the Township association we have built our cash reserves, and this was the high point of the flood. We were able to hire equipment, operators, purchase gravel and supplies, such as culverts and pay for them when the invoices arrived. Although we have been reimbursed substantially by FEMA for the money spent, without these cash reserves we would have had to have the contractors and vendors carry us for a few months. Since these are small businesses, this would have been difficult for them. We also had been told that we were not going to get the FEMA dollars, but Larry was not wrong.

As you watch the photos running behind me, you will see the immensity of what confronted us on that day and for two months following. The town owes a huge debt of gratitude to Rick Grupe, Town Foreman and his crew, Ken Langanki, Steve Uremovich, and Ron Hall. They and all the contractors we hired worked tirelessly to keep this project moving to completion. There were a couple weeks when Rick was on the job 7 days a week, if not working on roads, fixing equipment and making sure needed materials were in place.

We were fortunate that the replacement of the bridge over the Encampment River on the Clark Rd. had been approved by the state from Township Bridge Funds. And, even more fortunate that the drawings were ready for approval. Even though work had been scheduled for 2013, the state and county put this project on a fast track and it was completed in December 2012. Some of the costs associated with this bridge, normally a town expense, were born by FEMA. Although this is of little consolation to those whose lives were disrupted by the loss of this link to County Road 3, I still stand behind the decision, we made as a board, to do the project correctly rather than to do a temporary repair. We did not take longer to repair this road than adjacent counties took to repair theirs.

That said, because of the storm, the large amounts of water flowing through culverts and subsequent inspections, several large culverts have been found to need replacement this coming year or risk total failure. Those on the East Castle Danger Road will be particularly troublesome due to their size and no alternative ingress or egress to those homes and businesses.

Cartway – We are involved in another Cartway petition this year and it is taking up much time on the part of staff. It should be settled in the spring.

The board appointed a Clerk to fill the unexpired term of Laura Kleive. Fred Whitney was the new appointment and he had been working as the Deputy Clerk. Please introduce yourself if you haven't met Fred.

We hired another Part time Equipment Operator- Ron Hall – doing more road work now in the summer with less staff in the winter. Newer equipment results in less time repairing breakdowns.

Road information - More information on specific roads available from Town Foreman – Rick Grupe

Kept current with grading, all roads mowed and brushed, 19,480 gallons of dust control applied, 2,337 cubic yards of pit run material and 8,901 cubic yards of Class 5 gravel hauled and spread on roads, 14 culverts replaced and 3,310 cubic yards of ditch mud removed while reshaping ditches on roads and trucked away for disposal.

Equipment- Purchased a new 1 ton truck, removed box from existing 2005 GMC and put on new chassis. Equipped 2005 truck with service box to use for sewer district.

Chapel – Replaced roof

Castle Danger Wastewater District – Operating well.

Stewart River Wastewater Project - Still moving forward at this time albeit slowly. Presently waiting for frost free soils to do wetland delineation on an alternative site. .

Close to finalizing purchase of the county land adjacent to the shop and cemetery. The county has surveyed the property and delineated their needs for the straightening of Cty. 3. The dry hydrant was built by the county and awaits snow melt and spring rain to fill it. This should prove to be a valuable source of fire fighting water in the future.

Future planning for The Town of Silver Creek

The board has been discussing an addition to the Town Shop as a Clerk's Office and conference/meeting space. More work on this will be required before we take action.

With the desires of the Town Foreman and the Wastewater Operator to plan for retirement in the not too distant future, it was decided to begin the search for a replacement person this year. The plan is to have that person on payroll for one full year to learn the Town Foreman job and if he/she does not come to the position with a Class C Wastewater Operator License it will require 3 years of experience to attain same. So that person should be in place late spring or early summer, with Rick's retirement in 2014.

The levy and budget reflect some of the changes that we foresee in the future.

- Lake County Emergency Management Director B.J. Kohlstedt gave an update as to the County's emergency/disaster operations and preparedness. A variety of emergency/disaster plans have been prepared and tested – Floods, Fire, Pandemics. It was noted that because only 1% of our population are early responders, that we as individuals, as families, as neighbors need to support each other until help arrives. As was the case with the flood, many individuals acted quickly and effectively. No deaths occurred. The following "Bucket List" was presented.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY BUCKET LIST

Documents:

- FEMA emergency supply list
- Pen, pencil, notepad
- MN Highway map
- Spare set of house and car keys
- Checklist of important documents & financial statements
- Info on family and pets
- Medical information
- Out of area contact info

Hygiene:

- Hand sanitizer
- Tooth brush and paste
- Anti-bacterial dish soap
- Feminine products
- Toilet paper and garbage bag (bucket for toilet)

First Aid:

- Band-aids
- Pain medication (Tylenol, etc)
- Prescription medications
- Antiseptic
- Bleach

Survival:

- Can opener
- Whistle/pocket knife
- Magic marker
- Lightstick
- Flashlight
- Duct tape
- Batteries
- Matches or lighter
- Garbage bags

Misc:

Bottled water, canned food, weather radio w/crank charger

- Two Harbors Fire Chief Mark Schlangen gave an update as to the 2012 Two Harbors Fire Department operations and the newly constructed dry hydrant.



Two Harbors Fire Department
522 1st Avenue – Two Harbors, Minnesota 55616

THFD 2012 year in review

580 square miles and 6800 people served by 23 members of Two Harbors FD

60 calls in City of Two Harbors
68 calls in U12 and Silver Creek (Lake County collectively)

1,672 personnel hours on emergency calls

14 structure fires	8 vegetation fires	4 vehicle fires	3 trash/rubbish fires
14 vehicle accidents	18 fire alarms	7 haz mat	6 CO detector calls
4 landing zones	44 dispatched and cancelled en route	6 service calls	

Training: 1670 personnel hours on training/practice

Fire Prevention: Over 100 personnel hours were donated by THFD members for fire prevention education reaching approximately 400 students as well as providing fire extinguisher training to local businesses. In addition, members donated time for many community events.

ISO Classification change: The re-survey of THFD fire protection was completed by the Insurance Service Office in 2012. The result is an improvement from a Class 5 rating to a Class 4 rating for city protection. Protection outside of city limits improved from a Class 9 to a Class 6.

Current THFD ISO rating is a 4/6, 1990 ISO survey of THFD was a rating of 6/9.

The 2011 published statewide distribution of communities by the Public Protection Classification number is as follows:



We Protect, Serve & Educate

- Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve gave an update on the work he has been doing on the County level involving PILT and the PLT Advisory Group. 84% of Lake County is under public land. That land is made up of 56% Federal, 12% State and 14% Local. PLT is significant to Lake County. Mr. Sve continued updating us regarding the Broadband, ATV trails, and the Armor towers that are almost completed. Mr. Sve gave high praise to County staff for all of their efforts during the June disaster.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Uncanvassed results of the election were read.

Motion by Tamara Martineau, second by Jane Wick to donate \$500 to the 2013 Lake County Fair. Carried unanimously.

It was requested that more communication attempts be made announcing the annual meeting in order to have more people attend; both young and old. Mass emails perhaps, more newsletters, post on the Lake Chronicle's Calendar. It was noted that the Township's website – www.ttosc.org – has all notices and meeting minutes posted, as well as the website's calendar has all dates, times and locations of Town events. In addition, all legal notices required of hearings, elections and meetings are posted in the The Town's official newspaper – The Northshore Journal.

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed at 9:46 p.m. upon motion by Tom Peterson, second Paul Baumann. Carried unanimously.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon further review, State Statute MS – 275.065, subd. 1;275.07, subd. 1, "September 15, 2013 is the last day for towns to certify to County Auditor their final levies voted on at the March Annual Meeting."

Additionally, The Town Board approved and designated that the August 20, 2013 would be utilized as the date to reconvene, and then finally close, the annual meeting. Therefore, whether or not the 2014 levy needs to be adjusted, the **reconvened annual meeting will be held August 20, 2013 at 6:15 p.m. at the Silver Creek Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick R. Whitney, Clerk