

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2014

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 11th day of March 2014 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 by Elaine Hanson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were approved as presented upon motion by Leroger Lind, second by Mary Pat Grupe. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer report was approved as written upon motion by Mary Pat Grupe, second by Elizabeth Busa. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Frederick R. Whitney, second by Mary Pat Grupe, to set the date, time and place of the next annual meeting for March 10, 2015 at 8:15 p.m. at the Town Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

Levy & Budget: Mike Hoops spoke to the creation of the 2015 Budget and levy. Motion by Mary Pat Grupe, second by Elaine Hanson to accept the proposed Budget and Levy payable for 2015 as follows:

A.	<u>Proposed 2015 Levy</u>	(2015 Levy)	(2014 Levy)
	General	\$62,050	\$85,650
	Road & Bridge	\$141,000	\$163,500
	Rd Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Building	\$21,500	\$22,250
	Fire	\$17,100	\$22,100
	Cemetery	\$1,100	\$1,100
	SUB TOTAL	\$262,750	\$314,600
	Sewer Taxes – CDSSD	\$5,714	\$5,714
	Sewer Taxes – SRSSD	\$30,000	\$0.00
	<< TOTAL LEVY >>	\$298,464	\$320,314
	CDSSD Sewer assessments	\$136,500	\$136,500
	CDSSD Sewer user fees	\$104,750	\$104,750
	SEWER RECEIPTS	\$241,250	\$241,250
	TOTAL LEVY + RECEIPTS	\$539,714	\$561,564
B.	<u>Proposed 2015 Budget</u>	(2015 Budget)	(2014 Budget)
	General	\$75,600	\$78,250
	Road & Bridge	\$259,100	\$290,100
	Rd Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Building	\$14,250	\$12,250
	Fire	\$40,000	\$40,000
	Cemetery	\$4,200	\$2,700
	SUB TOTAL	\$413,150	\$443,300
	CDSSD Sewer Debt	\$107,000	\$107,000
	CDSSD Sewer OMR	\$103,000	\$95,500
	SRSSD Sewer Debt	\$20,000	\$0.00
	SRSSD Sewer Enterprise	\$10,000	\$0.00
	TOTAL SEWER	\$240,000	\$202,500
	<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>	\$653,150	\$645,800

Various fund balances were discussed as to how The Town has been able to absorb costs while lowering the levy due to greater than expected Taconite Tax revenues, lower operating costs than projected, as well as sound financial management. It was reported that an addition to the current garage building is being contemplated over

the next one to two years in order to accommodate a larger meeting space for the majority of our Town Board meetings, as well as a safer work environment for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk work space that won't be within the garage space; blocking significant dust, dirt, and diesel fumes. The budget to the building is being gradually increased to fund this project. Finally, to date the Stewart River Subordinate Sewer District development costs have been born by the General Fund; some \$185,000. A new levy has been created, as well as a budget, all beginning in 2015, that will be assessed to the SRSSD properties only; this will not be an across the Township levy. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

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

March 11, 2014
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2013 felt like a normal year for the Town. There were times of crisis management but nothing to compare with 2012. The March election saw the incumbent supervisor and treasurer re-elected. A deputy clerk, Krysty Pirsig, was hired in late 2013.

Cartway – We continued to be heavily involved with a cartway proceeding in 2013 and it consumed a lot of time. The parties reached a final resolution on the issue recently. If anyone is contemplating a cartway petition in the future, bring it forward while The Board is still fresh.

Personnel – Ron Hall chose not to return to work with us this past year. Steve Uremovich and Ken Langanki continued with us as part time staff, operating equipment and driving truck.

Town Foreman, Rick Grupe continued to talk about retirement and we began looking for a full time person. In November, Jason Barnard began work as heavy equipment operator for the Town and this has been working well for us.

This fall I found there is a program that allows public employees to retire, draw their retirement and continue to work at 50% of full time for up to 5 years. So I feel good that Rick and the board will be able to put together a package that will allow him flexibility to enjoy semi-retirement and the Town to have his valuable services for a few more years. It sounds like his retirement from full time will be May 1, 2014. Good luck Rick, and remember what I said about saying “NO”.

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

The Town Crew kept current with grading, all roads mowed and brushed, 16,205 gallons of dust control applied, 330 cubic yards of pit run material and 1,175 cubic yards of Class 5 gravel hauled and spread on roads, 8 culverts replaced and 3,350 cubic yards of ditch mud removed while reshaping ditches on roads and trucked away for disposal.

We hired an engineering firm to study the 3 large culverts that we have that are at imminent risk of failure. Those plans have been prepared and it is our intention to replace these culverts during the 2014 construction season.

We've had a lot of snow this winter and it has placed mailboxes in harm's way. If your mailbox was damaged by Town equipment, we plan to repair it. If your stand is getting weak and in need of replacement we have the approved brackets available and can work with you to get it installed.

Equipment- Purchased a new John Deere excavator and additional buckets for trenching and for ditching. This machine greatly improves efficiency when doing ditch repair work. The used Cat excavator was put up for bids and sold. We have purchased a larger tank and are installing it on a used tandem axle truck. This will allow us to spread calcium chloride more quickly without having to return to the shop for refilling the tank.

Castle Danger Wastewater District – Continues to operate well. Made 2 new connections this year. All existing homes are now connected. Maintenance was done to repair damaged concrete in lift stations and 1 control structure.

Stewart River Wastewater Project - Still moving forward at this time. Materials as required have been submitted to all required governmental agencies. MPCA, USDA-Rural Development and PFA are reviewing documents at this time and we believe that this will go to bid and construction in 2015. This, of course, is assuming that grants will reduce the cost for property owners to an acceptable level.

Land Purchase - We are still moving forward with the 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 is full of water. This has proven to be a dependable source of water for firefighting in the area.

Future planning for The Town of Silver Creek

The board continued discussion on the 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.

The Town Foreman has developed a comprehensive list of road repairs that will carry us several years into the future. Please see either Rick or me to view.

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

- Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve gave an update as to Township related matters. A major Hwy 3 culvert repair and possible bridge replacement by the Encampment River is expected in 2014-2015. Rich mentioned County personnel changes – New County Commissioner, County Auditor/Treasurer and Engineer. The County levy will increase some 3%, however it has been going down by 3% the last few years. The Broadband project continues to move ahead with over 70% pre-sale acceptance in Silver Bay, 62+% in Two Harbors and even greater percentages in the rural areas.
- The Lake County Public Health Supervisor Michelle Backes-Fogelberg gave an update as to the County's Public Health system and services that it offers to all area residents. From early childhood, prenatal care and education, to senior wellness. The County is there to support and educate all citizens as to good health, chemical and drug abuse, and graceful aging. They want to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people.
- The Two Harbors Fire Chief Mark Schlangen gave an update as to the 2013 Two Harbors Fire Department operations and the newly constructed dry hydrant.



Two Harbors Fire Department
322 1st Avenue – Two Harbors, Minnesota 55616

THFD 2013 year in review

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

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

2,473.5 personnel hours on emergency calls

17 structure fires	6 vegetation fires	5 vehicle fires	6 trash/rubbish fires
21 vehicle accidents		21 fire alarms/false alarms	
10 hazardous materials incidents		11 CO detector calls	
5 landing zones		25 dispatched and cancelled en route	
15 service calls (downed powerlines, smoke removal, EMS assistance)			

Training: 1,941 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 community involvement such as Heritage Days parade, 4th of July races, Lake County Fair, and other local events.

We Protect, Serve & Educate

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Town's updated cemetery rules and regulations were presented. A handout was available, as well as they are posted on the Town's website – www.ttosc.org
- The uncanvassed results of the election were read – Supervisor Hull received 28 of 29 votes cast and Clerk Whitney received 29 of 29 votes cast.
- Jessica Williams who is the Barn Boss for the County Fair Grounds made a request for a donation of \$500 to the Agricultural Society to be used for needed building repairs at the fairgrounds.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Jane Wick, second by Larry Lampart, to approve a \$500 donation to Agricultural Society-Lake County Fair. Motion carried unanimously.

- A written request from the Lake Superior Community Theater for a non-specified donation amount was presented by the Clerk. The Clerk added that a request had previously been made to the Board, but the Board informed the theater that all requests would need to be presented and approved at the annual Town meeting.

Discussion followed as to a donation policy, a budget for donations, the appropriate procedure for dealing with donation requests, as well as what is allowed under the law. The Clerk was directed to obtain further information, as well as prepare a possible policy, (if allowed under the law), and present to the Board at a future regular meeting.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Busa, second by Krysty Pirsig, to approve a \$500 donation to the Lake Superior Community Theater.

More discussion followed. The call to vote was made. Due to a tie vote, the motion failed.

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed at 10:27 p.m. upon motion by Mary Pat Grupe, second Krysty Pirsig. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick R. Whitney, Clerk