

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2015

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 10th day of March 2015 was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Town Clerk – Frederick R. Whitney. Mary Pat Grupe was chosen to preside as Moderator at the meeting.

The agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved as presented upon motion by Dwight Lind, second by Elaine Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Frederick R. Whitney, second by Tom Peterson, to set the date, time and place of the next annual meeting for March 8, 2016 at 8:15 p.m. at the Town Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

Levy & Budget: Greg Hull and Mike Hoops spoke to the creation of the 2016 Budget and Levy. Motion by Al Anderson, second by Dwight Lind to accept the proposed Budget and Levy payable for 2016 as follows:

A.	<u>Proposed 2015 Levy</u>	(2016 Levy)	(2015 Levy)
	General	\$57,050	\$62,050
	Road & Bridge	\$141,000	\$114,000
	Rd Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Building	\$16,500	\$21,500
	Fire	\$17,100	\$17,100
	Cemetery	\$1,100	\$1,100
	SUB TOTAL	\$252,750	\$262,750
	Sewer Taxes – CDSSD	\$5,714	\$5,714
	Sewer Taxes – SRSSD	\$30,000	\$30,000
	<< TOTAL LEVY >>	\$288,464	\$298,464
	CDSSD Sewer assessments	\$131,500	\$136,500
	CDSSD Sewer user fees	\$113,236	\$104,750
	SEWER RECEIPTS	\$244,736	\$241,250
	TOTAL LEVY + RECEIPTS	\$533,200	\$539,714
B.	<u>Proposed 2015 Budget</u>	(2016 Budget)	(2015 Budget)
	General	\$78,000	\$75,600
	Road & Bridge	\$257,200	\$259,100
	Rd Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Building	\$16,250	\$14,250
	Fire	\$40,000	\$40,000
	Cemetery	\$4,200	\$4,200
	SUB TOTAL	\$416,150	\$413,150
	CDSSD Sewer Debt	\$106,500	\$107,000
	CDSSD Sewer OMR	\$103,750	\$103,000
	SRSSD Sewer	\$30,000	\$30,000
	TOTAL SEWER	\$240,250	\$240,000
	<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>	\$656,400	\$653,150

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 Taconite Revenues are hard to predict, but have been over budget these few years. Due to the unpredictable nature of these receipts, the Board will first apply revenues to the budgeted accounts and then, if any excess is available, those funds will be held for "five major projects/items"; Garage Addition, Replacement of the loader, grader, a new snowplow truck and assorted equipment as needed.

To date, the Stewart River Subordinate Sewer District development costs have been born by the General Fund; some \$200,000. With a newly created levy, as well as a budget that are beginning in 2015, all properties will be assessed, but as the project is funded, those levies will become special assessments and levies only upon the SRSSD properties.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

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

Annual Report of the Town Board

2014 was a year of learning, especially for the new persons on the staff. Last year Jason Barnard was hired as equipment operator. Since he started in mid-November, much of his work involved plowing snow until spring. He then began the learning curve on road maintenance as well as wastewater operations, plus all the other items that are done such as building and cemetery maintenance.

Larry Guentzel was hired as part time truck driver and operator. Many of you know Larry. He retired from farming in Nicollet County where he served on the town board as a supervisor and did road maintenance for the town. He now lives in Silver Creek. He has also thrown his hat into the ring and run for Supervisor in our town and we await the outcome of the election.

We hired Ryan Kough as laborer this past year and he worked at many labor intensive projects on a part time basis. He quit in early fall to go to the North Dakota oil patch.

Rick Grupe took retirement in April. He is now hired back into the Town Foreman position on a part time basis.

Ken Langanki, part time operator and truck driver is about the only person whose position did not change this year.

The Board of Supervisors wrapped up a very contentious cartway request this past year, when the involved parties withdrew and negotiated the damages privately. Several friendships were damaged by the dispute and neighbor relationships strained.

Road maintenance included the following:

920 yards of Class 5 gravel spread.

350 yards of pit run gravel hauled, much for culvert replacement and turn around building.

3,500 yards of ditch mud hauled from ditching projects.

13 culverts replaced.

10,800 gallons of chloride applied to town roads. Roads were graded from 1-8 times this year depending on need.

A new turn around was constructed at the end of Aspen Rd. on property purchased from Duane Ricard.

Much make ready work was done in preparation for the replacement of the culvert on the East Castle Danger Road. Working with the County Engineer, Krysten Foster, we were able to receive emergency funding to do this. We will only pay the first \$20,000 of the \$100,000+ project. This will be a 12'x4'x60' concrete box culvert. We will keep the road open during construction by building a bypass. Since permits for doing actual construction were received too late last fall, materials were stockpiled at the demo landfill prior to freeze up. We can move forward with construction while road bans are in place. Lake County crews have been and will continue to assist with the project.

Several other large culvert replacements are on the docket for this next year also. They are failing as well as being undersized.

Our road crew has on hand mail box stands that meet State of MN specifications, so if you need to upgrade your mailbox, they can be purchased from the town.

Many of you may note that over the past few years, our fund balances have grown. This is great, because we are able to pay our bills in a timely fashion and have cash reserves for disasters such as the flooding in 2012. Much of the growth can be attributed to higher than anticipated Taconite Production Tax payments received by the Town. The Board of Supervisors has decided to place these additional tax dollars from 2014 and in future years, into a special fund, allowing us, in essence, to borrow money from ourselves, funding equipment replacement and town projects. There is no assurance from year to year as to how much taconite will be produced and right now we see a slowdown in some of the range plants, so we will see how this move works out for us.

We continue to move the Stewart River Wastewater Collection and Treatment project forward. Due to the high cost of the project, Sen. Bakk and Rep. Dill are carrying a bill for us requesting \$7 million in bonding money. If these monies are approved we would begin construction in 2016.



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

THFD 2014 year in review

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

Description	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total # calls	109	142	128	124	121
City of TH	52	68	60	63	54
UT2/Silver Creek	57	74	68	61	67
Structure fires	10	17	14	10	16
Vegetation fires	4	6	8	16	9
Vehicle fires	5	5	4	4	8
Trash/rubbish fires	4	6	3	4	3
Vehicle accidents	14	21	14	16	20
Fire alarms/false	16	21	18	18	11
Hazardous Materials	13	10	7	5	4
Carbon Monoxide	9	11	6	4	5
Landing zones	2	5	4	14	11
Dispatched/cancelled	25	25	44	29	28
Service calls (smoke/powerlines)	7	15	6	4	8

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 and CERT.

In addition, members donated time for community involvement such as Heritage Days parade, 4th of July races, Lake County Fair, and other local events.

2015: explore possibility of DNR surplus equipment for Truck 24 replacement

Two Harbors Fire Apparatus:

Engine 21 (1992 Ford L8000 – General Safety) – number 1 engine

Tower 22 (2011 Spartan – General/Rosenbauer) - aerial/platform

Engine 23 (2006 GMC 5500 – Custom Fire) – first responding vehicle

Truck 24 (1986 Chev 3500 – General Safety) – brush truck/utility

Engine 25 (2001 Sterling – General Safety) – engine with 2500 gallons water, A/B foam

Tender 26 (2008 International – Forstner) – tender with 3000 gallons of water

We Protect, Serve & Educate

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was a short discussion regarding the Lake Connection's fiber project and the timing of installations. Hoops indicated that the Board had no input as to scheduling. It was noted that there will be an open house on March 21st.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The uncanvassed results of the election were read – Supervisor Guentzel received 38 of 39 votes cast and Treasurer Gilbert received 37 of 39 votes cast.
- Al Anderson read a letter from Tamara Martineau that thanked the Town and the Town Board for the \$500 donation received last year by the Agricultural Society. The letter went on to request an additional

\$500 donation to the Agricultural Society with funds to be used for needed building repairs at the fairgrounds.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Al Anderson, second by Shele Hull, to approve a \$500 donation to Agricultural Society-Lake County Fair. Motion carried unanimously.

- Al Anderson read a donation request letter from the North Shore Tractor and Equipment club, seeking a \$500 donation. Discussion followed as to what types of donations can be made legally by the Township. Specific Minnesota Statutes have been adopted that recite specifically what donations are allowed.

Al Anderson made a motion, second by Bill Stokinger, approving a \$500 donation to the North Shore Tractor and Equipment club subject to the Clerk obtaining information that it is allowed under State Statutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk will contact Al Anderson with his findings.

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed at 9:28 p.m. upon motion by Al Anderson, second Tom Lindberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick R. Whitney, Clerk