

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 in the Board Meeting Room at the Town Garage. Present were Supervisors – Greg Hull, Mike Hoops, Denny Moen; Clerk – Wendy Langanki; Treasurer – Jamie Pellman; Alison Oftedahl; Conrad Swanson; John Schlangen; Brett Ballavance -WENCK; Rita Gabrielson – Cleveland Cliffs.

Chair Hull called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:**

John Schlangen – requested the Board revisit resurfacing of Press Camp Road. Schlangen presented information from a report dated October 6, 2006 compiled by LTAP, LRRB, and MN DOT. He stated that generally speaking when a road exceeds average daily traffic (ADT) of 200, gravel road maintenance costs increase significantly. In 2010 a traffic count was done on Press Camp Road showing 262 cars per day at that time. Schlangen stated that St Louis County tried a process called double chip on one of their gravel roads. It has been installed for about 10 years and reportedly is holding up well. When it gets rough, St Louis County plans to add another layer of chip coat. Schlangen gave information on the cost and composition of chip coats. Board discussed the necessary prep work of gravel, culvert replacement, and ditching that will be needed, prior to any blacktop or chip coat being applied. Hull stated the Board is definitely willing to revisit the issue to determine if it is in the best financial interest of the Town. He also said that since Press Camp is a dead end road, residents of the road would be financially responsible rather than the entire township. Swanson will work with Schlangen to research a solution and find a viable alternative for Press Camp Road and other roads if applicable.

**NORTHSHORE MINING LEACHATE:**

Brett Ballavance, Wenck, and Rita Gabrielson, Cleveland Cliffs, spoke regarding the possibility of coal ash leachate from Northshore Mining being brought to the Castle Danger sewer ponds for treatment. A trial was done on Friday where a truckload of leachate was introduced to the system. There have been no adverse effects on the lift stations or ponds to date. Ballavance explained that the leachate is 99% water. It does not contain organics, solids, or phosphorus. The metals are similar to the metals already going into the system. Ballavance stated that land application of metals such as mercury, meets MPCA regulations. He assured that he would not be recommending this option if he had any concerns. Ballavance will submit a letter to the MPCA answering all their questions. It is the Township's job to regulate any Significant Industrial Users (SIU). An SIU is defined as discharge amounting to more than 5% of the system's total flow. The amount of leachate proposed from Northshore Mining is estimated to be 25% of the total flow. A pre-treat permit is required by the MPCA. Ballavance will complete this permit following the Township's approval to move forward. Hoops discussed the modifications that will need to be completed on the lift station to enable receiving the leachate. He also discussed the number of gallons the system is able to discharge per day. Following final discharge on October 15<sup>th</sup>, Hoops will evaluate and determine the amount of leachate the ponds are able to receive. Ballavance stated that Northshore Mining would still be able to truck some of the leachate to WLSSD as a backup, if needed. Gabrielson discussed a possible longer term agreement for the leachate. A contract will need to be drawn up once MPCA approval is given. Supervisors discussed the cost per thousand, and expenses that will be incurred, to accept the leachate. Hoops was authorized to meet with Northshore Mining and then bring back a proposal to the Board to vote on.

**ROAD & SAFETY:**

- Swanson stated that we are still waiting on the grader repairs to be complete.
- A culvert on Alger Grade has been opened up that had been blocked by beaver activity. Discussed having someone come and trap the beaver should they persist in damming the culvert.
- Discussed options for opening graves once Grupe moves and his mini is no longer available. Swanson will compile a list of rental alternatives.
- Swanson will be attending pump repair training in Duluth.
- The scrubber for lift station #1 has arrived and will be installed next week.

**REVIEW MINUTES:**

Motion by Hull, second Moen to adopt the following minutes with corrections as noted: 08/15/2017 Regular Meeting; 08/15/2017 Annual Meeting Reconvened; 08/22/2017 Second Interview Meeting; 09/05/2017 CDSSD Quarterly Meeting; 09/05/2017 Closed Meeting; 09/12/2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

TOSC checking: \$53,939.39 and TOSC savings: \$657,078.63 for a total of \$680,656.33. Outstanding Checks: \$347.00. CTAS balance: \$680,309.33. Motion by Hull, second Moen to authorize transfer in the amount of \$90,000.00 from Lake Bank savings to Lake Bank checking per Treasurer recommendation. Motion carried unanimously. Reviewed and discussed report Moen is working on that will show budget balances in addition to fund balances. Motion was made by Hoops, second by Moen, to accept the August Treasurer Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**READING OF THE BILLS:**

Current month's bills were read: Claims 5396 – 5437 totaling \$71,087.57 and payrolls through 09/19/2017. Hoops abstained on #0901201709 and 0915201709. A motion was made by Hull, second by Hoops, authorizing payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Affidavit of Postings
- Lake County Land Use applications and notices
- Right of Interment for Hanson and Skogen
- Lake County Auditor – re: special assessment fees
- Lake Bank – pledge inventory
- FMHA – letter of credit
- MN Department of Revenue – re: PERA Aid for 2018 in the amount of \$444
- Cooperative Light and Power – dividend allocation

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Chapel Repairs – repairs have not yet begun
- East Castle Danger Road turnaround – waiting on contract from Conrow
- Conflict of Interest Policy – proposed language was reviewed and agreed upon. A resolution will be drafted by Hull to recognize the remaining employee conflict with Hoops. Both will be acted on at the next regular meeting. This will finalize the discussion and agreement which was held in May to eliminate all Board/Employee relationships.
- Committed of the Whole compensation – motion by Hoops, second Moen to accept the Committee of the Whole meeting as a Special Meeting with per diem paid. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mail box and key drop – Oftedahl is researching same. Motion by Hoops, second Moen to order a mail box and key drop that will work for the township as determined by research. Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution for Donations – draft resolution was reviewed. Resolution format will be used for all donations received.
- Town Assistant Operations Manager – one application was received for this position. Due to lack of applications to review, this position will be placed on hold for now. Discussed the need for a snow plow call in position when conditions require additional help. Notice will be placed in the Northshore Journal for one week.
- Fence by Town Hall and Pavilion – discussed installation of a fence behind the Town Hall and Pavilion. Lake County Land Use Ordinance language has been reviewed. No permit is needed if the fence is less than six feet in height. Supervisors will be donating all supplies and labor.
- Credit Cards – amendments have been made to the Credit Card Policy and Credit Card Agreement forms. Motion by Hull, second Moen to accept the Credit Card Use Agreement with corrections as noted. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Hull, second Hoops authorizing issuance and use of a Township Credit Card to Conrad Swanson. Motion carried unanimously.
- Auditor fund transfer recommendations – motion by Hull, second Moen to transfer funds per Auditors recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.
- Seasonal Rental of the Pavilion – amendments have been made to the Seasonal Rental forms. Motion by Hull, second Moen to adopt the 2017 – 2018 Seasonal Storage Agreement forms as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Snow Plow Policy – the existing Snow Plow Policy was reviewed. Motion by Hoops, second Moen to adopt the Snow Plow Policy for the 2017 – 2018 plowing season as presented. Hull stated that the road plowing sequence will be equally efficient in reverse order.
- Residential Widening and Winging – discussed whether to continue this service, and reviewed the application form. Lake County discontinued any widening or winging of private driveways several years

ago in an effort to not compete with local contractors. There have been three township residents who have applied in recent years. Will wait and see if there are any residential requests for the service.

- ALCCTO fall meeting – Silver Creek will be hosting the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Lake and Cook County Township Officers. Supervisors agreed to have the meal catered. A light meal of sandwiches and bars will be served.

**PENDING ISSUES:**

- Stewart River SSD – the Township will not have the opportunity, as hoped, next week to meet with Nolan, to discuss funding for the Stewart River SSD project.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Hull, second by Hoops, to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday October 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Langanki, Clerk