

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 2017

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday November 14, 2017 in the Board Meeting Room for the purpose of discussing all issues before the board. Present were Supervisors Greg Hull, Dennis Moen, and Mike Hoops; Clerk Alison Oftedah; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Conrad Swanson; Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve; and Lake County Attorney Russ Conrow.

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

1. Klenz Visit – Kendra Klenz from Lake County Environmental Services will attend next week's meeting to discuss recycling and seek ideas and input for the *GreenCorps* program.
2. Road and Safety – Swanson reported that the weather is wreaking havoc on the roads. Blading is not possible unless there is a thaw. It was suggested that gravel can be added near some intersections where potholes are especially bad. It was noted that the salt/sand supply is ready, but may be 30 yards short due to lack of available sand on the day it was hauled. Swanson believes we can obtain more sand later from the County if needed.
  - a. Ziegler sent notification of warranty expiration on the loader. The board supports the idea of getting the technical analysis offered by Ziegler for \$249 to identify any potential issues.
  - b. Anderson was hired as temporary on-call snow plow operator, has completed training, and has been called in once.
  - c. Swanson would like to continue to work 4 ten-hour shifts throughout the winter instead of switching to 5 eight-hour shifts. The board was supportive provided work is getting done and that Swanson is able to come in when called for snow or sewer emergencies. Hull stressed the importance of communicating any schedule changes to the Clerk.
3. Moen Financial Report – Discussion held regarding the need for Moen to receive monthly financial reporting by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month. Currently the Treasurer and Clerk have not had the material ready that early in the month. Treasurer input will be requested at next week's regular meeting.
4. Correspondence –
  - a. North Shore Management Board Membership Renewal – The \$750 membership fee was questioned. Hoops confirmed the value of the membership for planning and zoning issues.
  - b. Minnesota Department of Transportation Map – Supervisors examined the road map of Silver Creek for accuracy. No needed changes were identified.
  - c. Approved Land Use permits from Lake County and Silver Creek were reviewed by members.
5. Curve Land – Lake County has sent the cleared deed and request for payment for the cemetery curve property. Silver Creek must pay \$25,000 plus deed and recording fees to complete the transaction. Delivery of the checks was discussed.
6. Gooseberry Village Tax Forfeit Land – Ron Hammes has contacted both Lake County and Silver Creek a number of times to express interest in purchasing some or all of this property. In response, Russ Conrow was invited to attend the meeting. Conrow explained that as tax forfeit land; this property is technically owned by the state and managed by Lake County. Conrow outlined legal options for transfer of the property. A significant amount of funding was lost to the Castle Danger Subordinate Sewer District when the Gooseberry Village development was cancelled. All agreed that Silver Creek would like to find a way to recoup its financial losses. It was also agreed that there is a public interest in having this property developed and connected to

the sewer system. As a number of options exist, more discussion between Lake County and the Town of Silver Creek will be needed. Conrow agreed to contact Hammes in response to his inquiries.

7. Veness Purchase of Pest House Property – Conrow reported that his office is currently in discussions with Veness regarding the name on the deed and the finalization of this sale.
8. Wage Garnishment – Conrow is waiting for Sherburne County. Once the garnishment order is renewed, Conrow will provide information allowing the Clerk to renew it every 70 days until the debit is paid in full.
9. Stewart River Sanitary Sewer Project – Hull is scheduling a meeting with Chris Swanson to discuss partnership between the City of Two Harbors, Lake County and the Town of Silver Creek. All parties have expressed interest.
10. Anderson and Langanki Wage Equity – Anderson was hired at current market wage, which turned out to be higher than the wage currently paid to Langanki. Hull proposed raising Langanki's wage to \$25 per hour to reflect his experience and seniority. He also proposed the raise be retroactive to September 1<sup>st</sup> to acknowledge the important contributions made by Langanki with training Swanson in the last 2 months.
11. Chapel Repairs – Moen inspected the Chapel repair and determined that not all work specified in the contract was completed. The contractor will be contacted to remedy the issues prior to payment of the invoice.
12. Auditor Contract Proposal – Walker, Giroux and Hahne sent a counter offer with lower rates for the next three years.
13. Relocation of Polling Place – A formal resolution will be submitted in the regular meeting to move the polling place to the new building. Lake County can notify voters via postal verification for a cost of 0.37 cents per postcard. It was noted that postcards should not be sent too early.
14. Waive Fees for the Tractor Club – The North Shore Tractor Club requested that the Town Hall rental fee be waived for their club. Supervisors were in support provided that proof of their Non-Profit status be supplied.
15. Levy Verification and SRSSD Assessment – An error was discovered in the worksheet used to develop the budget and levy last March. Specifically, the prior year levy numbers were incorrect. The budgeting process was valid, but the percent of increase is greater than was expected. In addition, the SRSSD levy was intended to be collected only from Stewart River residents. However it was actually collected from all Silver Creek residents. Because the Stewart River Service District is still in planning phase, it is not legal to levy those selected residents. This will be taken into account when developing the next levy.
16. Fund Transfer – The balance of the Stewart River Enterprise fund will be transferred to the General Fund per the Auditors. A fund balance report supporting the dollar amount will be submitted at the regular meeting so that the transfer can be approved.
17. 2018 Board Meeting Schedule – The Clerk provided the proposed meeting schedule for next year. Requested schedule changes will be processed at the regular meeting.
18. Sipper Fence – Sam Parker sent a proposal to survey the Township property line where the fence would be located. Parker's proposed fee is \$700. Decision on the survey will be made at the regular meeting.
19. Sewer Finances/PFA Loan Payment – No new information available.
20. Cemetery Kiosk – Moen reported that he working on designing a sign for the cemetery.
21. CDSSD Irrigation Area – Hoops reported that he was able to clear brush from the irrigation access trails by hand. The Township will not need to rent a brush hog after all.
22. Northshore Mining Leachate – Hoops presented a Wastewater Disposal Agreement providing for Northshore Mining Leachate to be treated via the Castle Danger Sanitary Sewer System at a

price of \$4.50 per gallon. Pond levels have dropped enough to allow the ponds to accommodate one load per week to start. A Pretreatment Notification document was also presented. A goal for Northshore is to process 2-4 truckloads daily if possible. Per the agreement Silver Creek can slow or halt the inflow at any time if there are issues. MPCA approval is needed before the processing can begin. The agreement will be presented for Board approval at the next regular meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. upon motion by Moen, second Hoops. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk