

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
CASTLE DANGER SUBORDINATE SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017

The Castle Danger Subordinate Service District meeting of The Town Board was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 in the Board meeting room. Present were Supervisors: Greg Hull, Mike Hoops, Dennis Moen; and Clerk Alison Oftedahl.

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

**CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:**

NONE

**Wastewater Operator's Report – December 5, 2017**

**Influent**

September - Received 0.975 million gallons of influent

October - Received 0.789 million gallons of influent

November – Received approximately 0.457 million gallons of influent

Flows in September and October are higher than last year which is a reflection of the high volume of tourism on the North Shore. November flows were very close to last years.

In addition to the above, the district received in excess of 0.200 million gallons of trucked in wastewater.

**Effluent**

September-discharged 3.838 million gallons of water

October-discharged 3.390 million gallons of water

Total pumped this season 19.372 million gallons. This is a record for a year.

**Current Operations**

Although we signed the contract with Northshore Mining to begin accepting a limited amount of leachate beginning December 1, approval still has not been received by either party from MN Pollution Control Agency.

Normal routine maintenance is being completed.

All pump inspections were completed this fall by Conrad after I got him started. Boxes and frost blankets were all placed as inspections were done. We found a couple pumps on duplex stations that were in failure at the time of inspection. They have been replaced. We have one pump station that does not alarm due to a bad circuit board. We have received the board, but waiting for good weather to replace.

The past few months have seen a lot of repairs. We've installed a number of grinder pumps including those found during inspections. There was a check valve failure at #2 Lift Station that required replacement of the valves. Shortly after that the check valves in #1 Lift Station failed. As we were checking out that problem, we noticed a leak from a mating flange on one of the pumps. There was a fissure in the flange that required installation of a flange, which luckily we had, plus a section of pipe and elbow. We had #2 Lift Station rewired with new controls to prevent the random alarm calls that had haunted us for several years.

I feel some items are deferred maintenance and others are the age of the system starting to catch up with us. Minnesota Pump still has not come up with a good solution to replace the pumps at Gooseberry.

Replacement pumps are being ordered on an as needed basis. Conrad has had a chance to go down and work with Bob Miller one evening. They hope to get another day scheduled in the not too distant future. Minnesota Pump is planning to do a 2 day pump workshop this winter in the northern part of the state. I would recommend that Conrad attend it.

Problems with filamentous algae have been eliminated through the use of Earth Tec algaecide. It is an added cost, but much cheaper than the use of chlorine.

Our MPCA Permit, presently in for renewal, with an anticipated renewal date of December 1, is on the back burner somewhere in their office. Staff shortages and a backlog of new applications are taking precedence. Unfortunately that means we do not have a decision on whether or not we will still have to reduce phosphorus levels in our discharge. I would like to have that in hand by next June, when I typically have to begin mitigating phosphorus.

We had discussed mowing trails on the irrigation site earlier and had priced out renting a brush hog or having it done by a custom operator. I took my brush saw out and did the cutting myself at a cost of less than \$500.

All monthly reports and sampling were done and submitted to MPCA in a timely fashion.

#### **Pending Maintenance Items**

Dig up and repair the patch on Dan Doda's grinder station. They are planning to build a new home in about 2 years which will necessitate moving the grinder. That will be their expense.

Replace damaged fencing and fencing removed for dirt work

Continue straightening fencing at the ponds

Gooseberry Falls State Park (GFSP) flow issues

Televise collection lines as needed.

Do routine maintenance of air relief valves throughout the collection system.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hoops, Wastewater Operator

Motion made by Moen, second Hull, to accept the Operator's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Operator Hoops was asked to report on the training status of Town Operations and Facilities Manager Swanson, who is working towards his Class C Wastewater license. Hoops reported that hands-on training is going very well. Swanson handled several problems on his own; completed annual inspections of customer grinder stations; and trained with Bob Miller of Miller E-1 Pump Repair. Several classes were identified that would be good for Swanson to attend next time they are offered by the MPCA.

#### **FINANCIALS & DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS AS OF 11-30-2017:**

- Sewer Enterprise Fund: \$(7,825.51), Sewer Replacement Fund \$(28,875.70), and Sewer Debt Service Fund \$131,580.84
- Delinquent accounts - none

It was noted that both CDSSD working funds are in a negative balance. The Clerk presented figures for the prior 3 years compared with this year. With regard to expenses, more was spent this year than the prior 2 years, but less than in 2014. Hoops reported that the age of the sewer system is a factor in the number of repairs this year and that caused higher expenditures out of the Replacement Fund. Balances will be examined again at the time of the Rate Hearing.

### **Gooseberry Village Tax Forfeit Land and the PFA Loan Status**

The PFA loan payment schedule and projected fund balance were examined by the Supervisors. This loan was used to develop the CDSSD Sanitary Sewer System. Current Projections indicate a \$102,851.34 shortage that would result in Silver Creek being unable to make the final loan payment in the year 2020. The primary cause of the shortage is the failure of Gooseberry Village. When Gooseberry Village was not developed, the land became tax forfeit, and the prior owner failed to pay \$92,813.20 in special assessments needed for the PFA loan payments. Several strategies to raise these funds were discussed. If the Town of Silver Creek can purchase the tax forfeit land and resell it at a higher price, the proceeds could be used to make the final loan payment. Other options suggested included another special assessment or use of other funds. Another special assessment may not be legal, and for that reason the land sale is likely the best option. Before a decision can be made, a price on the tax forfeit parcel must be obtained from Lake County. Hull agreed to contact Commissioner Sve towards that end.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Alum Elimination – Hoops reported that the MPCA has not processed the permit renewal application with the new language eliminating Alum.
- Northshore Mining Leachate – Approval for the plan to process leachate from Northshore Mining has not yet been obtained from the MPCA. A contract between Northshore Mining and The Town of Silver Creek was approved in the November 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Board Meeting.
- Letter to CDSSD Sanitary System Customers – Motion by Hull, second Moen to have Hoops work with the Clerk on a letter to customers soliciting emergency contact information. Passed unanimously.
- Gooseberry Falls State Park – Hoops reported that he has not found a solution to the flow issues at Gooseberry Park, but is still working with Minnesota Pump.
- Stewart River Wastewater Project – Hull reported that he is still trying to set up a meeting with Chris Swanson. This project is on a list of potential projects that could be added to the State Bonding Bill.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Cancellation of CDSSD Quarterly Meetings – Motion by Hull, second Moen to eliminate the Quarterly CDSSD Meetings and to handle all CDSSD business in the regular monthly meeting of Town Board. Hull noted that constituent attendance has been way down and that CDSSD business is already routinely handled in the regular monthly meetings. The Annual CDSSD Rate Hearing is an exception and will continue to be held. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CASTLE DANGER LAND USE:**

- Ringold – A permit application has not been received for the construction of a shed that has already been built. A letter and application have been sent to Ringold, but the paperwork has not yet been returned.
- Fellon – The Clerk reported receiving a number of inquiries from Fellon's architect and attorney, but no actual permit application as of yet.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m. upon motion by Hull, second Moen. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk