

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2017

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday December 12, 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 Oftedahl; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Conrad Swanson.

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

1. Road and Safety – Swanson reported that the roads have frozen up and equipment and supplies are ready for snow plowing. Flooding of the ice skating rink is underway, but was delayed this week when the garage’s well pump went out. The garage and office were without water for about 24 hours. Rasmussen has replaced the well pump, and now the rink flooding can continue.
2. Sewer Operations – Hoops reported that there have been no significant changes since last week’s CDSSD meeting.
3. Excavator Payment – This month’s regular transfer to checking will need to include \$16,243 for the January loan payment on the John Deere excavator. It was noted that payoff is close, with the final payment due in July of 2018.
4. Moen Financial Report – Moen will be reviewing all the numbers this month and then redesigning the report for January to coincide with the new fiscal year. Moen would like to attend an Auditor’s Training course to gather ideas for best practices.
5. MPCA Training Schedule – Sewer Operator Hoops reviewed the MPCA course schedule and recommended that Swanson attend the “Wastewater Treatment Basic” course in June and then the “Stabilization Pond Seminar” course in October.
6. Supervisors reviewed Lake County notices of “Public Hearings on Land Use Issues” with no concerns raised.
7. Lake Connections CPNI Election form – Lake Connections was contacted to obtain more information on this form. Silver Creek can choose to allow or not allow the use of its name and address to market additional services to the Township. Lake Connections does not share the personal information with any other companies. Supervisors who opted to allow this with their home accounts did not experience any problems with it.
8. MN Rural Water Association request for letters of support – The Rural Water Association is requesting email letters of support that could be presented to federal legislators. Hoops spoke in favor of this organization because of their free training and on-site support. Supervisors felt that the Sewer Operator would be the best person to write a letter of support. Hoops agreed to take this task.
9. Purchase of Tax Forfeit Gooseberry Village Property – Hull reported that he spoke to both Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve and Lake County Attorney Russ Conrow about an asking price for this property. Hull received a promise from Sve to try to provide a “ball park” price soon. Discussion ensued about the resale of this property by Silver Creek and what the asking price should be. Hull reminded the others that by statute, when Silver Creek resells this property, the price must be justified based upon the public good. The resale price cannot be inflated simply for profit.
10. Town Hall Fencing Project – Sam Parker has been out to survey the property line for fence placement, but has not yet sent documentation. Fence construction is planned for spring.
11. Northshore Mining Leachate – Hauling is waiting on MPCA approval. The request was submitted 6 weeks ago. Because hauling will raise money for the CDSSD sewer, the delay is undesirable. The question was posed as to whether hauling could be started prior to MCPA approval. Sewer Operator Hoops discouraged this idea, noting that the MPCA can fine both the organization and the individuals involved.

12. Alum Elimination – CDSSD’s permit renewal has not been processed by MPCA. It has been delayed.
13. Clerk Training – The Minnesota Association of Townships is offering a course for new clerks on January 11 in St. Michael. Oftedahl has emailed for additional information to determine whether topics would be helpful. It was also noted that Spring Short Course training will be held April 6th in Carlton.
14. Lake County Water Plan Advisory Committee – Hoops reported that a committee is being formed to do a county water plan. In the past a plan for the entire watershed was designed to fulfill federal requirements, but there is now pressure to have each county create their own plan. Hoops served on this committee in the past and agreed to continue to represent Silver Creek.
15. Veness Purchase of Pest House Property – Information requested by Conrow was sent, but no update was received.
16. Cemetery Kiosk – Moen reported that using Excel to create a map of the cemetery is working well. Once the electronic file is ready, it can easily be sent to Silver Creek Signworks to be made into the kiosk directory.
17. Employee Wage Garnishment – Hull contacted Conrow, but did not receive an update.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. upon motion by Moen, second Hoops. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk