

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2017

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 in the Board Meeting Room. Present were Supervisors: Greg Hull, Denny Moen, Mike Hoops; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Treasurer Jamie Pellman; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Conrad Swanson; and Lake County Deputy Assessor Matt Miller.

Chair Hull called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:

NONE

MATT MILLER – TOWNSHIP PROPERTY LINES:

Lake County Deputy Assessor Matt Miller came to the meeting to answer questions arising from Sam Parker's preliminary survey results. The survey will be used in the construction of a fence behind the Town Hall. Parker had reported that his survey of township property showed one of the property lines running through the middle of the Pavilion building. Miller clarified that there should be 3 deeds applicable to the current survey, not just the 2 provided to Parker. The Board was presented with a GIS photographic map confirming that the pavilion is indeed situated fully on township property. The additional deed will be forwarded to Parker, so that he can complete the survey correctly.

ROAD & SAFETY:

The Board discussed Lake County's request for annual bridge priorities. County engineers must communicate to the state on behalf of Silver Creek in order to obtain funding assistance. For the past few years the East Alger Grade crossing of the Encampment River has been listed as the highest priority. Supervisors reviewed information on this project and agreed that it does remain Silver Creek's highest priority. It was noted that a 12 foot diameter culvert with a special type of bottom wrapping is needed for the trout stream. A permit, valid until 2019, has been issued and a hydraulic study was completed in 2013. Swanson was directed to communicate this priority to Krysten Foster at Lake County, and Oftedahl was directed to forward the hydraulic study.

Swanson asked the Board for direction in regard to a neighbor dispute about snow plowing. Since it is illegal to push snow from a driveway into or across the Township roads, the Board advised Swanson to send Silver Creek's standard letter on this topic to the offender, provided the accusation can be confirmed via a photograph.

Swanson reported that although the tire replacement on the Grader was completed, the Grader now has a bad throttle cable and cannot be used until it is repaired. A replacement cable has been ordered and should arrive next week. Roads are better since the last snow fall filled in many of the ruts.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

No issues with the sewer were reported. Hoops is currently working on a letter of support to Ruth Hubbard at the Minnesota Rural Water Association.

REVIEW MINUTES:

- Motion by Hull, second Hoops to accept as presented the 11/21 Regular Meeting minutes.
- Motion by Hoops, second Moen to accept the minutes from the 12/5 CDSSD Meeting and the 12/12 Committee of the Whole meeting with corrections as noted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

TOSC checking: \$86,220.86 and TOSC savings: \$462,815.65 for a total of \$549,036.51. Outstanding Checks: \$29,131.40. CTAS balance: \$519,905.11. After some discussion, a transfer of \$60,000 was requested. It was noted that the transfer includes \$16,243 for the John Deere Excavator loan payment. Motion by Hoops, second Moen to authorize transfer of \$60,000 from savings to checking. It was also reported by Pellman that the second half of property tax collections were deposited last week and totaled \$145,000. Motion by Hoops, second Moen, to accept the November Treasurer Report as presented.

MOEN REPORT:

Moen explained that he contacted Lucinda Messman at the Minnesota Association of Townships and she has offered to spend time one-on-one to set up the budgeting in the CTAS system to provide better reporting data. The Board also discussed the general difficulty in viewing expenditures due to the fact that CTAS shows fund transfers as expenditures. When funds have to be transferred from one account to the other, it caused incorrect

totals on expenditure reports. Hull reported that he and Pellman believe they have found a manual report to assist with this issue.

READING OF THE BILLS:

The current month's bills were read: Claims 5514 – 5536 totaling \$37,912 and payrolls through 12/19/2017. Hoops abstained on 1222201709. A motion was made by Hull, second by Hoops, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- MPCA Training Schedule – Swanson was directed to take responsibility for signing up for the necessary sessions closer to the dates.
- Lake Connections – CPNI Election Form – Motion by Hoops, second Moen to elect to allow Lake Connections to use township data to market services to the township.
- MN Rural Water Association – Request for Letters of Support – Motion by Hull, second Moen to have the Sewer Operator write a letter of support.

PURCHASE OF TAX FORFEIT GOOSEBERRY VILLAGE PROPERTY:

Silver Creek is still waiting on Lake County to set a price for the acreage.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Town Hall Fence Project – The survey of property lines necessary for the fence project has begun but has not yet been completed.
- Northshore Mining Leachate Hauling – Hoops reported that that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has not yet granted permission for leachate processing.
- Alum Elimination – Hoops reported that the permit application that would eliminate the need for Alum has not yet been processed by the MPCA.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Beargrease Cub Run – The committee planning this children's sled dog race would like to start the race at the Town Hall and run it around Sipper's field. They also would like to have treats and an award ceremony in the Town Hall. This event is planned for January 20th. The Board discussed the possibility of running the race around town property located behind the fire pond if the group did not obtain permission for use of private property.
- Clerk Training – Oftedahl requested permission to attend a January 11th training session designed for new Clerks. The session is offered by the Minnesota Association of Townships and will be held in St. Michael. Motion by Hull, second Moen to allow attendance, and authorize price of 1 night lodging and all necessarily and actually incurred expenses such as meals and mileage.

PENDING ISSUES:

- Veness Purchase of Pest House Property – Conrow notified the Town of Silver Creek that the property must be conveyed to Betty Veness and has sent the Quit Claim Deed paperwork. The Clerk will coordinate with Veness to get checks for purchase price, deed tax and recording fee and then the paperwork can be signed and notarized.
- Refile Employee Wage Garnishment – Conrow has sent all necessary documents and instructions to the Clerk. Oftedahl agreed to follow up with signing and mailing the necessary forms.
- Stewart River SSD – Hoops spoke to Peter Miller of Wenck Associates who will speak to a PR firm and lobbyist. Silver Creek will not be paying for any lobbying, but will accept lobbying if Wenck wishes to subsidize it.
- Cemetery Kiosk – Moen brought his template design to show the group, and is in the process of entering all the names that will be displayed on the directory.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Hoops, second Moen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday January 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk