

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2018

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday January 9, 2018 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 updated the Board on his work with regard to Lake County's annual bridge priorities update. East Alger Grade's crossing of the Encampment is Silver Creek's highest priority. Swanson forwarded the Hydraulic report to Lake County's Krysten Foster. Confusion arose because the 90 inch diameter culvert indicated in the Hydraulic report was too small to qualify for funding. However the permit is for a 12 foot diameter culvert based upon DNR direction. Lake County is requesting a copy of the DNR report. Swanson also reported that he was told that this project is not likely to happen this year. It was noted that Silver Creek does possess a stockpile of culverts including some larger ones that could be installed in an emergency if the old culvert fails.

Swanson asked permission to obtain his certification for DOT inspections. Supervisors agreed that this would be a good idea. The cost of certification training is \$235 which is much less than the approximately \$1000 it costs to have township vehicles inspected by an outside party.

2. Town Garage Heat Issues – In periods of extremely cold weather, the in-floor heating system is not able to heat the shop above 49 degrees. The issue is believed to be caused by broken wires in the cement floor that cannot be accessed for repair. Several types of auxiliary heating systems were discussed. Swanson was directed to verify the insulation at the attic flap and to research pricing of the various heating options.
3. Sewer Operations – Hoops reported that he has not received any update from the MPCA on Leachate Hauling or Alum Elimination. With regard to CDSSD sewer operations, the Board discussed whether it remains necessary to do monthly meter readings for commercial customers. While the readings have occasionally uncovered system issues, they do require several hours of Swanson's time which is an expense to the Township. It was agreed that going to quarterly or annual readings would be fine. The consensus was that the Sewer Operator has authority to make a final decision on the frequency of meter readings.
4. Moen Financial Report – Moen will not submit his report until after meeting with Lucinda Messman, the trainer at the Minnesota Association of Townships. Once CTAS is updated for the New Year, he will begin importing the data, likely by the April meeting.
5. Affordable Housing Meeting – Moen relayed a call he received from Paul Iverson urging Silver Creek to attend the Affordable Housing Meeting being held in Two Harbors. All three supervisors have schedule conflicts that do not allow them to attend.
6. Correspondence – Supervisors reviewed Lake County notice of Public Hearings for Land Use Issues and Land Use Applications received by Lake County and found no concerns.
7. Beargrease Cub Run – The organizers of the children's Beargrease Cub Run dogsled race have signed a Town Hall Use agreement and paid the rental fee. Details of the event on January 20<sup>th</sup> were discussed. Swanson and Oftedahl will meet with Liz Busa on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> to visit the Town Hall, discuss the kitchen facilities, start heat and review the snow management.
8. Skating Rink Issue – Someone has been driving a vehicle over the skating rink to get to the Silver Creek water hydrant. Driving over the rink in winter causes sand and rocks to be tracked onto the ice and damages the skating surface. After discussion, the consensus was that locking the hydrant in winter might best resolve this issue.

9. Purchase of Tax Forfeit Gooseberry Village Property – Hull attended a meeting with Lake County representatives including Commissioner Rich Sve and Attorney Russ Conrow, Nate Eide and others to discuss options for the sale of the property.
10. Town Hall Fencing Project – The completed survey of Township property was reviewed by the Board. The survey did not uncover any issues that would prevent the fence project. It shows approximately 9 feet between the back of the Pavilion and the property line. The planned fence would be 6 feet tall and run right down the property line.
11. Tom Ringold Land Use Application – Ringold built a storage shed on his property this fall without obtaining a permit. He has now submitted a Land Use Application and plans to attend next week's regular meeting discuss his options.
12. Employee Wage Garnishment – The Town of Silver Creek sent garnishment papers in an attempt to collect the approximately \$6000 owed to the township. After receiving documents, the former employee called to request a payment plan instead of garnishment. Supervisors discussed the issue.
13. Meeting Schedule Conflict – Lake County would like to hold their October COW in Silver Creek on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the same date as Silver Creek's regular meeting. It was decided to move Silver Creek's regular meeting to the following Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. to accommodate Lake County and resolve this issue.
14. Mileage Rate Increase – The new mileage reimbursement rate was released by the IRS and is one penny higher at 54.5 cents for every mile.
15. Inflation Rate and Cost of Living Adjustment – Annually a COLA raise is awarded to township employees based upon the inflation rate. The official rate will be released in the next week.
16. Authorize Clerk to Oversee Non-Audit Services – The auditors have requested a number of documents to be submitted to them. A "Nonattest/Nonaudit Services" letter authorizing the clerk to provide the materials must be approved by the Board in the regular meeting.
17. Veness Purchase of Pest House Property – Hull reported that the land sale to Veness is finally complete. A signed deed has been prepared and recorded at the county.
18. Stewart River SSD – Hull reported his plan to host a meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> with Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve, Minnesota Representative Rob Ecklund, and a DOT representative to discuss combining the sewer project with the Highway 61 upgrade project. It is hoped that federal funds for infrastructure could be secured to do the Highway and the sewer project at the same time.
19. Cemetery Kiosk – Moen reported making good progress on his electronic directory. He plans to check out the cemetery book for use in keying names into the file.
20. US Bank CD Maturity – A letter was received indicating that the CD has reached maturity. It was noted that this CD is actually money in escrow in trust and therefore is not "owned" by the township. It will be allowed to automatically renew unless the owner decides to make a change.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. upon motion by Hoops, second Moen. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk