

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 20, 2018

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 in the Board Meeting Room. Present were Supervisors: Greg Hull and Denny Moen; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Treasurer Jamie Pellman; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Conrad Swanson.

Chair Hull called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS: None

PURCHASE OF TAX FORFEIT GOOSEBERRY VILLAGE PROPERTY: No update has been received from either Lake County or the group of potential investors.

ROAD & SAFETY:

Town Operations and Facilities Manager Swanson reported that roads remain frozen, but he has been busy thawing culverts with 5 done today. It was noted that Road Bans go into effect Wednesday March 21st at midnight even though roads still seem to be frozen hard. Swanson informed the Board that he will take vacation the last 2 weeks of April and plans to have Allen Anderson cover the road maintenance during that time.

Mowing attachment for skid steer – Swanson recommended the Eterra Raptor for mowing and brush cutting for the skid steer. It was not the cheapest with a price around \$27,000, but Swanson explained that the Raptor is expected to last 6 years longer than the cheaper competitor model. It comes with more heads, has a 4 foot longer reach, and can maneuver better than the competitor. It will also be custom built to match our exact model of skid steer. When Swanson had inquired about the cheaper model, the manufacturer said it would likely last only 2 years. After discussions, motion by Moen, second Hull to authorize Swanson to move forward with ordering the Raptor provided Swanson negotiates with the manufacture to try to get the price reduced. It was noted that this attachment should pay for itself in about 5 years because the Township will no longer have to rent a mower at a cost of \$5000 per year. Motion by Hull, second Moen to split the cost for the mower between the Road and Bridge fund and the Road Enhancement fund, with half coming out of each fund.

Swanson's Performance Evaluation – Hull reported that he had conducted Swanson's review, and that his performance has been fully satisfactory. Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Swanson when he was hired, Swanson's pay rate goes up to \$30 per hour upon successful completion of his probationary period. Motion by Hull, second Moen to make the \$30 per hour wage effective in the current pay period that began March 10 and will be paid next week.

Summer Staffing – It was decided that a full-time operator would definitely be needed for the summer, and that it would be desirable to have another operator on-call for busy times. Motion by Hull, second Moen, to authorize Hull and Swanson to write and publish the employment position descriptions and to conduct preliminary interviews, with the Board approving the final decision.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

A phone call was placed to Sewer Operator Mike Hoops, who was in St. Paul for lobbying. Hoops reported the following:

Leachate Hauling – Hoops reported that North Shore Mining will not be hauling leachate to the Castle Danger Sewer ponds after all. The MPCA directed them to process the leachate in their own tailings pond.

Alum Elimination – MPCA is supportive of ending the Alum requirement based upon a finding that phosphorus is not an issue for the Castle Danger sewer, but this will not take effect until the sewer's license is renewed. The license renewal process is underway and should be completed by July. Once this change comes through it will save \$3000 to \$5000 dollars per year.

Stewart River Sanitary Sewer Project – Hoops said his presentation to the Bonding Bill Committee went well, but it will be a while before the final version of the Bonding Bill is done. He made attempts to visit several senators and is working on a plan to get the project in front of the Governor. Dayton has made clean water a priority this year, so the timing is good.

CDSSD Rate Calculation Spreadsheet – Based upon previous discussions in the COW, motion by Moen, second Hull to adopt the rates in the spreadsheet and present them to sewer users at the Rate Hearing on April 10.

REVIEW MINUTES:

Motion by Moen, second Hull to accept as written the minutes from the 2/20 Regular Meeting; the 3/6 Committee of the Whole Meeting; and the 3/13 Board of Canvas Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

TOSC checking: \$85,910.38 and TOSC savings: \$514,665.43 for a total of \$600,575.81. Outstanding Checks totaled \$3306.87. CTAS balance: \$597,268.94. A transfer of \$30,000 was requested. Motion by Moen, second Hull to accept the February Treasurer's Report as presented and to authorize the requested transfer.

READING OF THE BILLS:

The current month's bills were read: Claims 5580-5610 totaling \$19,970.89; and payrolls through 3/20/2018. Federal withholding on payrolls was discussed as it looked different this month. Clerk directed to look into CTAS settings in regard to this. A motion was made by Hull, second Moen, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bear Grease Cub Run – A thank-you letter from the Bear Grease organizers was received.

Lake County Land Use – Applications received by Lake County from Silver Creek residents were reviewed.

MN Association of Townships – A request for updated contact information for all elected officers was passed around for verification.

Notification from Sherburne County – Silver Creek's prior employee whose wages were being garnished is no longer working for Sherburne County.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall Fence Project – This project remains on hold until spring.

Wage Garnishment – The Board questioned how they could find the employee now that he left Sherburne County and considered whether or not it will be worthwhile to begin legal proceedings again. The issue was tabled for now and the Clerk was directed to put it on the July COW Agenda for discussion at that time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk Vacation Coverage – Discussed plans to cover mail, voicemail and email during Clerk's absence.

August COW Scheduling Issue – The currently scheduled date for the August COW – August 14 - conflicts with the State Primary Elections. Motion Hull, second Moen to move the COW to August 7th.

Lake County Grant Application for Recycling Trailers – Motion by Hull, second Moen to endorse the letter of support for Lake County's Recycling grant application penned by Oftedahl and read in the meeting.

Election Judge and Moderator Pay – Motion by Moen, second Hull to approve the wage of \$12 per hour and mileage at \$0.54 per mile for the Election Judges and the Annual Meeting Moderator who worked last week.

Minnesota Association of Townships Training – Motion by Hull, second Moen to authorize Board members, Clerk and Treasurer to attend the MAT Spring Short Course and to be reimbursed for mileage and any other expenses necessarily and actually incurred.

Pavilion Seasonal Storage Pickup – The Clerk was directed to contact all residents who stored a vehicle or boat in the Pavilion and request they come in the morning on Saturday April 7.

Resolution to Accept Donation – The Board adopted upon roll-call vote a Resolution to Accept Donation of \$250 by Lindsay Bacon. Bacon had paid a \$250 refundable damage deposit for use of the Town Hall last summer and is declining her refund. She told the Clerk that instead of the refund, she would like the Township to consider it a donation. She is placing no conditions upon this donation. Votes to accept her donation were cast as follows:

Moen: Yea

Hull: Yea

Hoops: Absent

PENDING ISSUES:

Cemetery Kiosk – Moen displayed his progress on the Directory and noted that there were a few older entries in the Cemetery Book where names were written in a different column, making the status unclear. Research will need to be done to determine the correct status of these entries.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Moen, second Hull, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday April 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk