

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAY 1, 2018

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday May 1, 2018 in the Board Meeting Room for the purpose of discussing all issues before the board.

Present: Supervisors Greg Hull, Mike Hoops, and Dennis Moen; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Conrad Swanson.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Status of Hiring Seasonal Employees – The positions remain open through May 7. A few resumes have been received to date.
2. Gravel Crushing – Swanson reported that he is waiting to hear back from Krysten Foster at Lake County to see if we can partner with them to obtain crushed gravel. However, it is believed that Lake County's crushing will be done at gravel pits that are quite a ways from Silver Creek's garage and therefore may cost more to haul. The Board also discussed whether there might be gravel in township acreage off Alger Spur. For the long term, it was planned to dig some test holes on the township land to determine whether it may contain good gravel. For the short term, Swanson will follow up on vendor options.
3. SR2 Youth Triathlon on Cedar Road – A letter from Russ Conrow on behalf of the Lake Superior School District and Arete Outdoor Ministries was distributed. This group would like to run a portion of their youth SR2 Triathlon race along Cedar Road. The race is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on June 9, 2018. The Clerk was directed to send a reply granting this permission.
4. Sewer Operations – Hoops reported that the ice just went off the ponds and the wind created a fast anaerobic to aerobic turnover. Hoops and Swanson will begin working with the wastewater dripper lines next week. There are 7 miles of dripper lines and it can take 30-40 hours to check them all. Things have been going well – there have been no service calls for sewer issues in quite some time.
5. Stewart River Wastewater Project – Silver Creek's lobbyist Kaley Taffe is recommending lowering the bonding request from \$8.6 million to approximately \$2 million. While there are close to 14 representatives who support the project, there is still uncertainty on the Senate side. A lower amount may be more likely to pass and still enable the project to get off the ground. If the first installment is approved, it will be used to pay for full MPCA permitting and for the development of the engineering blueprint. The project would then be shovel-ready for the next Bonding Bill request. After lengthy back and forth, there was general consensus that this may help the project to get started and provide future leverage. Maintaining the lobbyist relationship for the next 2 years will cost an estimated \$20,000.

The Clerk was directed to pay the Stewart River lobbyist invoice immediately prior to the next meeting per the contract with MZ+A. In addition, it was noted that it's very important to track all Stewart River expenses for future reimbursement of the General Fund.

6. Budget Reports – The Clerk reported the results of training on the Budget portion of the CTAS system. Expenditure reports for the General Fund and Road and Bridge showing year-to-date expenses against budget were reviewed.
7. Fire Fund – Invoices for last year's fire protection from Two Harbors and Silver Creek were much higher than what was expected at the time of the levy. The Fire fund is currently negative with a balance of (\$46, 261). The \$20,000 levied will bring the balance up; however the fund will still be negative and likely require a transfer from the General Fund at the end of the year.
8. Request to Conduct Training on Recycling – Kendra Klentz from MN GreenCorps would like to present a mini training session to the public on the subject of recycling, and proposed coming to a Silver Creek Board meeting for this purpose. While the Board is very supportive of recycling and

Klenz is welcome to come to the meeting and talk for 5 minutes, they do not feel that their Board meeting is the right venue for a longer training session due to the extremely low level of public attendance.

9. Gooseberry Village Tax Forfeit Acreage – Hull reported that Lake County provided the investors with a purchase price per their request. Nothing has been heard from the investors since.
10. Town Hall Fence Project – The weekend of May 18-19 has been tentatively selected to build the fence behind the Town Hall, materials and weather permitting. Hull will donate most of the necessary lumber, but the posts may have to be purchased from another vendor. Supervisors will donate the work time.
11. Election Location – After the Township election, the clerk raised concerns that the new Board Meeting room is too small to comfortably handle expected voters for the Fall General Election. Ensuing debate revealed disagreement on the issue. It was argued that other Townships vote in smaller spaces. However the number of voters who could be seated at one time in the new Board Meeting room is about half as many as in the old Town Hall. Hull suggested that some additional research be done and that Wendy Langanki be invited to attend and weigh-in on the issue based on 30 years administrating elections.
12. Mowing Contracts – The Board reviewed estimates from North Harbor Services for seasonal mowing of the Cemetery and the Sewer ponds. The proposed price is the same as last year. Swanson was questioned about whether the new mower attachment for the skid steer could be used for mowing ponds. The slope gradient next to the ponds was of concern. The new mower is a brush mower and may not do a good job with grass. Further research is needed.
13. Cavallin Funeral Home Agreement – Hull proposed creation of an agreement with Cavallin regarding rental of the Silver Creek Town Hall for funeral services. In cases where Cavallin Funeral Home is handling full arrangements, they could collect the rental fee from the family and forward it to Silver Creek. Cavallin would also agree to cover damages with their own insurance should any arise. This agreement would eliminate the need for the family to drive out to Silver Creek to sign a contract. The price paid for rental would be the same, however Silver Creek would not need to collect and later return a damage deposit. A document will need to be created for adoption in the regular meeting.
14. Snowmobile Club Easement – Gordy Anderson contacted the Clerk to find out if there is an easement for the snowmobile trail where it crosses Silver Creek Township property. Grant in Aid money for trail maintenance requires that the Club prove they have all the easements in place for their trail. The Board was not completely sure where the trail crosses township property and does not believe there is an easement. More information is needed to move this forward.
15. Cemetery Kiosk – Final verification is waiting on availability of the Cemetery book.
16. Planning and Zoning – Hoops requested feedback on a Conditional Use Permit request submitted by Roger Walsberg for a small engine repair shop at his residence on Cedar Road. There were no major concerns raised.
17. CDSSD Ordinance – Supervisors are exploring the possibility of transferring the land use administration responsibilities for the Castle Danger Sanitary Service District over to Lake County. With the complicated nature of wetland mitigation and other environmental issues, it may make more sense for the County to handle all permit applications.
18. Property behind the Fire Pond – The request to have the Two Harbors Fire Department burn the weeds off the property as a training exercise has been waiting on Kevin Johnson who was not able to meet with Hull as planned. Hull reported that the neighbor next to this property is in support of the plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. upon motion by Hoops, second Moen. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk