

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2018

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday June 12, 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 Equipment Operator Allen Anderson, and guest Kendra Klenz.

Absent: Town Operations and Facilities Manager Conrad Swanson.

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

1. Recycling Survey Results – Kendra Klenz from MN GreenCorps reported on overall survey findings and the specific responses from Silver Creek residents. Less than half of respondents indicated they knew that they can have recycling picked up at the same time as garbage at no additional charge. Klenz is working with Maher to educate residents on this issue. In addition, nearly one quarter of respondents were not aware of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Two Harbors. Hoops raised concern that the HHW facility is not open much of the year. This is due to the building not being weatherized. Klenz stated that there are plans for a new facility but they may be several years away. Residents wish the Recycling Center was open more, did not require sorting, and accepted more items. She also reported that Lake County has applied for a grant to purchase large recycling trailers, one of which could be parked somewhere in Silver Creek periodically to make recycling more convenient. Lake County has received funding for another member of MN GreenCorps next year, who will continue efforts to increase recycling.
2. Road and Safety Report – Swanson was away attending an MPCA Wastewater Treatment training session. Allen Anderson provided the Road Report. A plan has been developed to raise Marble Lake Road about a foot in the area where it has been sinking. They plan to apply 720 yards of pit run material and then class 5 over the top and possibly replace the culvert. He also reported that he tried the new mowing attachment for the Skid Steer on the road shoulders. Because the mower does not float, bumps can be problematic. The mower itself cuts very well.
3. Status of Hiring Seasonal Employees – Because the advertisement did not result in any applications for the On-Call position, recruiting will be necessary. Swanson will be asked to tackle this when he returns.
4. Gravel Crushing – Supervisors reviewed the agreement with Louis Leustek and Sons Incorporated to crush approximately 4700 cubic yards of Class 1 for the amount of \$30,000 to be completed at the Bear Pit.
5. Gooseberry Dust Control. – The Board reviewed the agreement with Gooseberry State Park in which Silver Creek will apply dust control to campground roads for \$975 based upon \$85 for one hour of truck and driver time and 1000 gallons of chloride at 0.89 per gallon. The Park has sent a P.O. for this work.
6. Anderson Credit Card – Anderson will need a Silver Creek credit card for fueling vehicles and purchasing supplies. Lake Bank requires meeting minutes with formal approval, so this must be handled in next week's regular meeting.
7. Anderson Insurance – The Life Insurance premium for Anderson was quoted at \$984.50 per year by Harbor Insurance. Several other companies were approached but were not able to beat that cost.
8. CDSSD Wastewater Operator's Report – Hoops submitted and discussed his report. He reported that things are going well with no pumps needing replacement since March, and the weather allowing many gallons of irrigation. He also reported that a recurrent problem with Gooseberry's sewer alarm may be due to the alarm sensor being placed too low. The sensor has been relocated in order to reduce the number of false alarms. He noted that it will save CDSSD money as in the past there were many instances in which emergency pumping was ordered based upon the alarm. He plans to

watch it for an hour any time the alarm goes off to determine whether it is truly in need of pumping or not. The full text of the Operator Report will be printed in the minutes of the Regular meeting upon approval.

9. Septage Dumping Resolution and Application Agreement – Based upon 3 companies having an interest in dumping septage and domestic strength wastewater into the CDSSD stabilization ponds, 2 documents have been drafted: a Resolution to allow for this activity, and an Application/Agreement to set out conditions. The Board reviewed the draft language, and discussed what level of liability insurance should be required. The amounts of 1 million vs 2 million were discussed. The Board does not wish to create a hardship for these providers. Hoops agreed to ask what level of insurance is carried by Superior Septic, the company currently disposing of septage in our ponds, to learn what is customary in their industry.
10. Land Use Applications – Oftedahl reported a permit issued for John and Lori Owens to build a deck on their cabin, and a permit application for an addition/remodel has been received from Tom Ringold that has not yet been processed.
11. DOT and Silver Creek Bridge Project – Derek Frederickson from the DOT requested use of the Silver Creek Board Meeting room on July 11. DOT is hosting a meeting for homeowners who will be impacted by the planned 2019 Highway 61 Silver Creek bridge replacement. Supervisors did not see any issues with the date.
12. Gooseberry Village – There is no status change with regard to the tax forfeit acres. However, Ron Hammes, the owner of the original model home, has been calling supervisors to try to find a way to allow his property to be used as a vacation rental. He has a potential buyer for the home and 0.6 acre plot who is interested in that purpose. There are 2 issues, one being insufficient acreage and the other being the CDSSD ordinance that does not allow for short term (vacation) rentals.
13. CDSSD Ordinance – Hoops reported that he spoke to Christine McCarthy and Lake County could take over the land use administration responsibilities for the Castle Danger Sanitary Service District if the ordinance was vacated and a formal request is made to Lake County. The complicated nature of wetland mitigation and other environmental issues is driving this potential change. If this happens, vacation rental by owner would become an allowable use under Lake County ordinances. Supervisors discussed hosting an Open House with affected residents of CDSSD on July 5<sup>th</sup> to get opinions on the change and the possibility of allowing vacation rental as a conditional use. The Clerk was directed to pull a name and address list for all residents of the CDSSD and to post the meeting notice.
14. Election Booths – The new smaller-footprint election booths have arrived and one was set up for the Board to examine and approve. The size and ease of setup are as desired. There was some concern expressed about the strength of materials, because of the lightweight design; however it was felt that they could be braced if necessary.
15. MATIT Insurance Statement – Moen reported that he reviewed the property and liability insurance policy document and found no concerns. Coverage looks reasonable. Moen did not have the premium cost from last year as a comparison, so the Clerk will bring it to the next meeting. With regard to coverage amounts, Moen felt it was acceptable.
16. Property behind the Fire Pond – No status change.
17. Town Hall Fence – The fence is mostly complete. The posts need to be cut off and there is excess lumber to be picked up and hauled away. Hoops and Hull will complete these tasks.
18. Stewart River SSD – Hoops is working to schedule a meeting with Senator Bakk to determine why the Stewart River Sanitary Sewer District project was removed from the Bonding bill during the final voting.
19. Mowing Contracts – Contracts from North Harbor Services have arrived and will be formally approved in next week's meeting.
20. Cemetery Kiosk – Denny Moen checked out the Cemetery book and has an appointment with Jerry Cavallin to research any names found in the book with an unknown status. The meeting will narrow

down the list of questions that will then be taken to Lake County Courthouse for death certificate research.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. upon motion by Moen, second Hoops. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk