

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JULY 10, 2018

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday July 10, 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.

Visitors Present: Two Harbors Mayor Chris Swanson, Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve, Two Harbors Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Luke Heikkila.

Absent: Equipment Operator Allen Anderson.

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

1. Stewart River Wastewater – Hull noted that funding was not received from the Minnesota Legislature this year for the Stewart River Sewer project. He explained that friends from the city and county were invited to discuss the sewer problems. Two Harbors Mayor Chris Swanson and Treatment Plant Operator Luke Heikkila were asked about the Two Harbors Wastewater Treatment Plant and whether there was any chance of a joint project. Mayor Swanson expressed the belief that coming together is the right thing to do and this is a good time to do so. He stated that all options are on the table. Heikkila spent some time explaining the need for an upgrade to happen soon based upon the increase in industrial waste and the age of their system. They do not have a finalized plan but are trying to move forward relatively quickly since it could likely take 5 years to complete a new plant. A variety of issues were discussed and everyone expressed interest in seeing a solution to the Stewart River issue. It is believed that the Legislature would be more likely to fund a project if it were a joint city, township, county project. Lake County Commissioner Sve was asked to see if there are any other potential partners such as Larson. Silver Creek would still need to come up with their own funding for the collection portion of the project to connect homes to a common treatment plant. A rough figure provided by Wenck Associates of collection cost and piping into Two Harbors is estimated at \$12.5 million. For Silver Creek's side, more research into joint powers agreements is needed.
2. State Disaster Declaration for June 17 Flooding – A disaster declaration was made by Governor Dayton for the June 17th flooding, and the Clerk received forms from Lake County that will be used to report damage. The state will reimburse 75% of expenses incurred by the Township as a result of the flooding. Oftedahl will be working on completion of the report with input from TOFM Swanson.
3. Road and Safety Report –Swanson reported that the Marble Lake Road project is in progress and going well. He also reported that Equipment Operator Anderson informed Swanson that he will resign his position due to health issues. Anderson did agree to continue working until a replacement can be located.
4. Status of Hiring Seasonal Employees – General discussion was held on the need to find a replacement for Anderson. Swanson was directed to contact one of the applicants from the last time the position was posted and interview him. Anderson is willing to continue in the other open position as an "On-Call Operator" for special projects in summer and snow plowing in winter.
5. CDSSD Sewer Operations – Hoops presented his Operator's Report, noting that although things are going well, an upgrade to the filtration system is recommended. He presented a proposal document from Wenck that recommends updating the 18 year old irrigation system, replacing the filtration system, and moving distribution control valves currently located in the woods into the Filter building for better function and protection. Their estimated cost for design and management of the project is \$21,400. It was noted that the estimate does not include the cost of the construction itself. Supervisors expressed some surprise at the high cost. However, this preventative maintenance may ultimately be less expensive than waiting for a failure of the system. The issue was tabled to allow Supervisors to take home the 4 page proposal for more consideration. Hoops also reported that he

has been working to change the lab that does testing on the wastewater. The new lab charges a lower rate and will pick up the samples thereby eliminating payroll and mileage expenses currently incurred in transporting samples down to the lab in Duluth.

6. CDSSD Land Use Ordinance Open House – The Board discussed the community response expressed at last week's Open House. While there were some objections to the proposed change, the Supervisors remain in favor of transitioning CDSSD land use administration to Lake County. Before holding a series of public hearings, Hoops was asked to meet with McCarthy to look at the 2 ordinances side by side and cross map the CDSSD zone definitions to those of Lake County. And formal permission must be obtained from Lake County. The goal would be to have a detailed plan to present to the public at the hearings with answers to the issues raised at the Open House.
7. Land Use Applications – Oftedahl reported a building permit was issued to Beth Sullivan for a small addition to The Rustic for a walk-in freezer.
8. Hammes Sewer Installation – Application documents and fee were received from Eric Hammes and Hoops has ordered the materials that will be needed for this project.
9. Gooseberry Village – No status change on this topic.
10. Town Hall Fence – The fence behind the Town Hall has been completed.
11. Wage Garnishment – A question is out to the Attorney regarding the garnishment process now that the former employee has again been located.
12. Property behind the Fire Pond – This item on the agenda was not discussed.
13. Town Hall Sign and Cleaning – The Board discussed replacement of the small sign located near the Chapel. The old sign lists Chapel, Garage, and Town Hall, but does not list the new Board Meeting Room and Office. The sign may be a factor in the number of visitors who go to the wrong building for Board meetings. Some conflicting opinions were voiced on both wording and potential location of the new sign. Everyone agreed to think about it before the next meeting. The cleanliness of the Town Hall was also discussed. There has been no professional cleaning for a few years and some heavy use with special events. The floors could use professional attention. After some discussion, the Clerk was directed to contact ServiceMaster for a bid for quarterly cleaning of the Town Hall and the Board Meeting Room.
14. Cemetery – In response to a constituent call about footstones sinking into the ground, the Board discussed maintenance responsibilities. Moen had conducted some research and noted that normally the family is responsible for these types of issues although some cemeteries will do the work for a fee. Supervisors agreed that the Township should not chance damaging a stone marker. Therefore, the Clerk was directed to inform the family that they will need to contract out for any leveling or raising of footstones on their own. It was agreed that the Cemetery regulations Section 6 (Permanent Care) could be clarified in this regard. The Board also discussed a monument that is not placed per regulations but has been that way for approximately 4 years. Hull suggested adding to Section 13 some wording to the effect that the Board reserves the right to remove monuments that are installed without prior approval and/or not in compliance with regulations. Moen is continuing his work on the kiosk directory for the cemetery.
15. Township Computer Software Upgrade – The Clerk received support for upgrading Microsoft Office on the Clerk and Deputy Clerk laptops which are currently running the 2010 version.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. upon motion by Hoops, second Moen. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk