

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 17, 2018

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 in the Board Meeting Room. Present were Supervisors: Greg Hull, Mike Hoops, and Denny Moen; Clerk Alison Oftedahl, Deputy Treasurer Bobbi Salakka, and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Conrad Swanson.

Visitors in attendance: Chuck Voss.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS: None

ROAD & SAFETY:

- Road Report. Swanson reported that the Marble Lake project was completed and required 600 yards of Pit Run and 500 yards of Class 5 to raise the road bed where it was sinking. Ditching work on Loop road is underway – excess vegetation is being removed and erosion matting is being installed.
- State Disaster and Town Road Bridge – As a follow-up to the June flood event, the County inspected the Town Road Bridge and found that while structurally sound, it has erosion problems around the abutments. The assessment was provided verbally to the Clerk as the inspection was completed just hours before the meeting. The Board discussed possible repair costs and the fact that repairs identified as necessary after the 2012 flood were never completed. Swanson and Oftedahl are preparing documentation for the HSEM and FEMA meeting at Lake County later this week and will seek disaster funding.
- Gravel Crushing – Swanson reported that the crushing is done, and the gravel is ready for use.
- Status of hiring seasonal employees – Swanson conducted 2 interviews and felt one candidate was better qualified. Motion by Hoops, second Moen to empower Hull and Swanson to negotiate an offer with the candidate and complete the hiring process. Passed unanimously.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

- Wenck Proposal – The Board discussed a consulting proposal by Wenck for upgrades to the irrigation and filtration systems. As Sewer Operator, Hoops was asked to explain the current issues in more detail. Hoops identified 2 problems: the filtration system is repeatedly plugged by algae, and 2 irrigation valves no longer work automatically and must be set manually. He also expressed concern that the 20-year-old low voltage wiring that runs out to the valves could fail at any time. He explained that Wenck’s proposal identifies upgrades and improvements to a 20-year-old system. Hull spoke against the Wenck proposal based upon the high cost of the consulting and the likelihood that it would result in a plan that is unaffordable for the Sewer Enterprise fund. After some additional discussion, Hoops agreed to explore other venues.
- Wastewater Operator’s Report – Other than the long-term issues discussed above, Hoops commented that sewer operations are going well. There has not been a pump failure or sewer emergency in several months. The frequent alarms previously experienced at Gooseberry Falls State Park are not happening since the sensor was adjusted. And, a purchase of “super bugs” from Team Pro has been resolving grease issues in the number 1 Lift Station. Motion by Moen, second Hoops to accept the Wastewater Operator’s Report as presented below.

WASTEWATER OPERATOR’S REPORT – JULY 17, 2018

Influent

June – Received 0.9062 million gallons of influent

Flow for the month of June was down compared to last year.

In addition the district received 0.0601 million gallons of trucked in wastewater during this same period.

Effluent

June-discharged 2.872 million gallons of water. 6.78” of rainfall in June certainly changed the amount of water on hand. July is not proving to be any better.

Current Operations

I am in the process of changing labs for analysis. The lab has a pickup service on the North Shore. This should result in a direct cost savings through my not working the hours to take samples to lab in Duluth as well as charging mileage.

Normal routine maintenance is being completed. We have not had a pump replacement since March, so we have a stock of replacement pumps on hand.

Weed and grass control continues throughout the site by spraying and cutting.

We received an application for a connection at 3181 Hwy 61. We are in the process of assembling needed materials as well as necessary permits. Best guess is we will do the connection in mid-August.

Adjustments that were made to float levels at Gooseberry Falls State Park appear to be working. We have not had a callout alarm this season.

All monthly reports and sampling were done and submitted to MPCA in a timely fashion.

Pending Maintenance Items

Continue straightening and repairing fencing at the ponds

Replace flow control valves

Work with engineers on improving filtration system and valving/piping for control valves

Gooseberry Falls State Park (GFSP) flow issues

Televise collection lines as needed.

Clean/test air relief valves

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hoops, Wastewater Operator

- Stewart River Strategy Moving Forward – Silver Creek's current strategy involves partnering with Lake County and Two Harbors to try to develop a joint project. A brief discussion revealed that there have been no meetings or new information since this topic was discussed in the July 10 Committee of the Whole meeting.

LAND USE:

- A permit was issued to Beth Sullivan for The Rustic Inn Restaurant.
- CDSSD Ordinance – Supervisors discussed the turnout at the July 5th Open House meeting and the public concerns raised regarding short term rentals and local control. Short term rentals are currently not allowed in CDSSD. Hull reminded the group that it is possible to have Lake County take over land use zoning and administration without changing the current rule that prohibits short term rental. In that scenario, the Silver Creek CDSSD Ordinance would be vacated, but Lake County would amend their ordinance to include the prohibition. Hull pushed the group to focus on the main issue of overall zoning responsibilities. Board members remain in agreement that zoning and land use would be best handled by Lake County. The next step is to meet with the county regarding a transitional plan, followed by public hearings.

TAX FORFEIT GOOSEBERRY VILLAGE PROPERTY:

- No status change was reported. The Township remains short on funds for repayment of the sewer loan because assessments on the planned Gooseberry Village resort were never paid.

REVIEW MINUTES:

Motion by Hull, second Moen to accept as presented the minutes from the 6/19 Regular Meeting. Motion by Moen, second Hoops to accept as amended the 7/10 Committee of the Whole minutes with corrections noted. Motion by Hoops, second Moen to accept the 7/5 CDSSD Open House Special Meeting minutes with one deletion noted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

TOSC checking: \$60,885.57 and TOSC savings: \$442,891.12 for a total of \$503,776.69. Outstanding Checks totaled \$136.96. CTAS balance: \$503,639.73. Motion by Moen, second Hoops to accept the June Treasurer's Report as presented. After discussion noting that the PFA loan payment for \$103,000 was the primary reason for the higher than normal transfer request, motion by Moen, second Hoops to authorize the transfer of \$190,000. Both motions carried unanimously

READING OF THE BILLS:

The current month's bills were read: Claims 5697-5732 totaling \$167,986.06; and payrolls through 7/17/2018. Hoops abstained on disbursement 0525201809. Motion by Hoops, second Moen, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Lake Bank ACH Fees – Motion by Hull, second Hoops to approve and acknowledge Lake Bank's annual fees for electronic fund transfers for payroll direct deposit and sewer autopay. 2018 fees total \$250.30, the same amount as last year. An amount of \$125.15 will be automatically deducted from Silver Creek's account twice this year.
- Lake County Land Use – Land Use Applications processed by Lake County for Silver Creek residents were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Employee Wage Garnishment – This issue is waiting on the Attorney for legal advice.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Land behind Fire Pond – No status change on this project.
- Town Hall – The Board was in agreement that additional signage is needed to differentiate between the Town Hall and the new Board Meeting Room across Highway 3. It was suggested that Lake County might be willing to provide new highway signs for this purpose. Hoops and Clerk to follow up. The Clerk was also tasked with getting bids for quarterly cleaning of the Town Hall. Several names were provided as possibilities. Maintenance issues were discussed including the Town Hall hand rail that is falling off, and the interior floor that is in bad shape. The Pavilion has 2 issues resulting from vandalism including a broken panel and a ripped screen. And the chapel has windows that need replacement. Hoops volunteered to follow up on the Pavilion screen which may be covered under warranty. He also located the Menards part number for the panel that needs replacement. Hull suggested that the Supervisors donate their time to make the smaller repairs to the panel, the screen, and the handrail in order to get them done prior to the Ukulele Festival in August. It was agreed that once the replacement panel arrives, an evening work session will be scheduled. Replacement ideas for the Town Hall floor were considered, and it was suggested that a new wood floor installed over the old one would stiffen the structure and mitigate the sagging. As the Supervisor in charge of facilities, Moen was asked to make a more comprehensive list of maintenance needs for the old buildings so that they can be prioritized.
- Cemetery – Changes to the Cemetery Rules that were discussed at the last meeting are not yet drafted. The Clerk was asked to make the edits and bring them to the next meeting for approval. The Board discussed a monument that is not in compliance with Cemetery Rules, because it is situated at the footstone area of the plot. In addition, no record could be found of the payment of the Perpetual Maintenance fee for this monument. The Clerk was directed to send a letter to the family requesting payment of the fee and relocation of the monument to the headstone area.
- Software Upgrade for Clerk and Deputy Clerk Laptops – The group discussed whether upgrade is possible without committing to an annual contract. The Clerk reported that more research is being done to obtain the best price.

PENDING ISSUES:

- Cemetery Kiosk – Moen's electronic file that will be used for the map is almost done.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Hoops, second Moen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday 'August 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk