

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 in the Board Meeting Room. Present were Supervisors: Greg Hull and Denny Moen; Clerk Alison Oftedahl, Deputy Treasurer Bobbi Salakka, and Equipment Operator Allen Anderson.

Absent: Supervisor Mike Hoops.

Constituents and Visitors Present: Jody and Theresa Reineccius; Chuck Voss; and Ben and Isaac Oliver.

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

**CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:** None

**TAX FORFEIT GOOSEBERRY VILLAGE PROPERTY:**

- A Letter of Intent to purchase the tax forfeit parcels from attorneys representing Ben Oliver and Ron Hammes was distributed and read in the meeting. The Letter of Intent offers \$250,000 which is the sum of \$136,000 for the value of the land and \$114,000 for the old unpaid assessments. Hull noted that the terms were changed slightly since the discussion in last week's Committee of the Whole meeting –with sewer capacity lowered to 10% of the total. Should future development require sewer capacity beyond the 10%, additional assessments would need to be paid at that time. After some discussion on the overall process by which the property would be sold first to Silver Creek and then to Hammes and Oliver, motion by Hull, second Moen to recognize, acknowledge receipt of, and accept the Intent to Purchase the Gooseberry Village Properties and to forward it to Lake County Attorney Russ Conrow to move the process forward. Motion carried. Hull noted that while Lake County goes through the process of obtaining state approval, the Township will retain an outside attorney to protect Township interests and ensure that the process is proper, legal and would not be challenged or overturned later.

**ROAD & SAFETY:**

- Road Report – Operator Anderson reported that he spent time servicing the skid steer which has been overheating. This week five trucks were used to apply fifty loads of gravel to the East Castle Danger Rd, and then the road was graded. Six loads will be applied to the shop parking lot. Worked is planned for tomorrow on the Press Camp Road. West Castle Danger has a culvert that needs work and Burlington needs a new culvert installed. A road tour with the new Operations and Facilities Manager is planned for Monday. Replacement First-Aid kits for all vehicles were ordered this week. Anderson was asked about the cost of repairs for the dump truck damaged in Swanson's accident. Anderson reported that the repairs totaled less than \$1000 with labor being completed in-house.
- State Disaster and Town Road Bridge – The Clerk reported that the DNR permit application was initiated, but that the Nordic Group has been unresponsive to email or phone call. Their repair estimate is \$13,500, but there are questions about the details. Since we have not been able to reach Nordic Group, a date for the repair has not been set and there is no way to notify the residents on the other side of the bridge. It is not clear whether the road would need to be closed for the day, but it appears likely. Moen agreed to visit the office of Nordic Group in Hermantown when he is in that area later this week.
- Town Operations and Facilities Manager – Hull stated for the record that following the resignation of Conrad Swanson, the Township advertised his position and received 12 responses. Resumes were analyzed, with the top four candidates interviewed. Jody Reineccius was chosen as the strongest candidate based upon the resume analysis and the interview. The Memorandum of Understanding detailing the wages and benefits was provided at the meeting. Hull explained that he offered the same MOU as was offered to Swanson with the same starting wage. Reineccius accepted all terms and conditions, completed the required pre-employment physical with drug test, and has agreed to start Monday pending test results. Motion by Hull, second Moen to accept the offer as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and officially hire Jody Reineccius as Town Operations and Facilities Manager. Motion by Moen, second Hull to authorize a township Credit Card for Reineccius to enable the purchase of fuel and supplies.

**SEWER OPERATIONS:**

- AE2S Operations – Motion by Hull, second Moen to accept the terms of the short-term agreement with AES2 to cover sewer repairs during the absence of Sewer Operator Hoops. The contract pricing is effective through the end of the year in case Silver Creek would need operational assistance again. Hull reported that a number of sewer calls including three in a row to Gooseberry Cabins have been handled by Eric Applewick of AE2S, so far. Applewick is hopeful that he has a successful temporary solution in

place at Gooseberry Cabins, but informed Hull that excavation between a couple of the cabins may be needed to permanently repair the lines.

- Stewart River Project – Silver Creek was invited by Two Harbors to discuss the Two Harbors Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion as it could relate to the Stewart River area. The meeting is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> in the middle of the day. Both Moen and Hull stated that they would not be able to attend due to their work schedules. Brett Ballavance of Wenck will attend as he can speak to the Stewart River wastewater treatment requirements.
- Financial Assistance Agreement with Lake County – No update from Lake County has been received since discussion at last week's Committee of the Whole, but it is believed that the County will agree to extend the terms of this agreement as requested by our Auditors.

#### **LAND USE:**

- CDSSD Ordinance – There has not been any change to this project since last week's Committee of the Whole. A map provided by Lake County raised some questions that are still being researched.

#### **REVIEW MINUTES:**

With one correction noted, motion by Hull, second Moen to approve the minutes from the following meetings: 8/21 Reconvene Annual, 8/21 Regular, 9/4 Special, 9/10 Special, and 9/11 Committee of the Whole.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

TOSC checking: \$78,755.13 and TOSC savings: \$452,042.61 for a total of \$530,817.74. Outstanding Checks totaled \$19,924.43 for a CTAS balance: \$510,893.31. Motion by Hull, second Moen to accept the August Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion by Moen, second Hull to authorize the requested transfer of \$66,000.

#### **READING OF THE BILLS:**

The current month's bills were read: Claims 5769-5802 totaling \$75,180.56; and payrolls through 9/21/2018. Motion by Moen, second Hull, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Supervisors directed the Clerk to decline the request to provide employee salary information to "Minnesota Open the Books". Townships outside the metro are not covered by the Minnesota Data Practices Act and therefore are not required to provide this information. In-person requests by our constituents for salary information will be honored.
- Lake County Land Use Applications for residents of Silver Creek were reviewed by Supervisors.
- Signature items including Affidavits of Posting, and Rights of Interment were signed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Land behind Fire Pond – No status change on this project.
- Mowing Bids – Motion by Hull, second Moen to solicit bids for lawn mowing around the Silver Creek Cemetery, the Town Hall and the CDSSD treatment ponds. The Clerk was directed to advertise for two weeks in the paper and have the specifications available for interested bidders.
- Independent Audit – Per discussion at last week's COW the acknowledgement letter from Walker, Giroux and Hahne was signed and returned. Final bound copies of the Audit were distributed to Supervisors.

#### **PENDING ISSUES:**

- Seasonal Storage – Supervisors set the dates of October 20 and April 20 for the drop off and pick up of winter storage items at the Silver Creek Pavilion. To avoid overbooking, Supervisors agreed that last year's patrons would be called first. After that the Clerk was directed to run an ad if the space was not full. The same fees as last year will be charged.
- Signs for Town Buildings – Dick Bohr has not yet presented designs for the requested road signs.
- Cemetery – The Clerk was directed to try to reach the DeCorsey family regarding having two footstone markers on one plot. Other cemetery issues were not discussed.

- Old Town Hall Larger Maintenance Items – The Board discussed the fact that it would likely require \$80-90,000 to repair the foundation, floors and roof. The various needs of the building cannot be broken into smaller projects because they are connected. The Building Fund has about \$70,000 in it. The Board would prefer to budget for such a large project, but that could delay things until 2020. Hulls feeling was that if an updated building would bring in residents and create a stronger sense of community, it might be worth it. Moen suggested that resident input be solicited. No decisions were made.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Hull, second Moen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday October 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk