

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2018

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday November 13, 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; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius, Operations Assistant Paul Thompson, and Equipment Operator Allen Anderson.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Constituent Concerns: None.
2. Gooseberry Village – The Board discussed a letter sent by Ron Hammes requesting that the land deal be completed prior to the end of the year. Silver Creek and Lake County are both waiting on the State of Minnesota and so there is no way to know how long the process could take. There was also brief discussion on whether or not Silver Creek would actually need legal representation based upon initial discussions with Attorney Scott Witty.
3. Road and Safety – Reineccius reported that a good deal of maintenance was accomplished including new tires on the Dodge truck after 3 flats, repair of a fuel leak in the skid steer and repair to lights on the sander truck as well as filter changes on a number of vehicles. Out on the roads, a tree was removed from Dogwood, road grading continued, and snow had to be plowed twice already. Reineccius and Anderson requested permission to purchase a used angle plow for the front-end loader. Hull stated that the funds in the Manager's Small Tools Budget could be used for the purchase. Thompson suggested they check with Lake County as they may be willing to sell an angle plow that they don't use very often.
4. Personnel – Hull introduced Paul Thompson, who will start as our new Town Operations Assistant on Monday November 26, pending background and drug checks. He was offered a probation wage of \$23 per hour with \$26 per hour after probation and the same benefits and terms contained in Reineccius' contract. Thompson is skilled in road maintenance and most recently worked for Lake County Highway Department. Reineccius explained that they will now have coverage on Fridays and rotating on-call duties for sewer emergencies. Both will respond when snow plowing is required.
5. Employee Credit Cards – The Clerk explained that Lake Bank will not issue credit accounts beyond a group credit limit of \$8000. Currently there are 4 credit cards each with a \$2000 limit and this does not leave space to issue a card to Thompson. It was agreed that the equipment operators do all need a credit card of their own for fuel purchases when called in alone on a weekend. The best solution seems to be to lower the credit limits to enable both Anderson and Thompson to be issued credit accounts while keeping the group within the limit. It was suggested that Anderson's limit be lowered to \$500 and Thompson's be requested with a \$1500 limit.
6. FEMA and Town Road Bridge – Nordic Group will be doing repair to the Town Road Bridge abutments in the next two days. Homeowners have been notified. The FEMA inspectors made a site visit last week and the Clerk reported that work on completing FEMA forms is underway.
7. Sewer Operations – A draft version of our new MPCA license was sent to Silver Creek for a preview prior to the public comment period. Operator Hoops summarized the following good news: the license will only have to be renewed every 10 years, and most limits previously imposed have been removed from the license except for fecal coliform. Our drip irrigation on land was unique to the state when the permit was first issued, but now it has been proven to be safe and well managed, so fewer tests will be required. This will provide some cost savings.
8. Model Home Sewer Installation – Sewer Operator Hoops reported that while the grinder station has been installed, they encountered problems with bedrock that are preventing lines from being connected. Hoops suggested a new route for the piping. He will discuss the situation with owner

Hammes and let him know of the upcoming expenses. The home can utilize a tank over winter that would need to be emptied once or twice a week.

9. Stewart River Sewer – Hull reported a brief conversation with Two Harbors Mayor Chris Swanson, who said that a regional sewer option is under consideration due to the high cost of proposed upgrades to the Two Harbors Treatment Plant.
10. Financial Assistance Agreement with Lake County – An updated copy of the Financial Assistance Agreement document was sent to Lake County and a response has not yet been received.
11. CDSSD Land Use Ordinance Transition – The Board reviewed a new parcel list showing owners in the Castle Danger Subordinate Service District and an updated map, both generated by Lake County. The previous parcel list appeared to be missing a few of the property owners in the district. It was not completely clear what steps come next. The Clerk was directed to check in with Lake county on this.
12. Land Use Applications – The Board discussed the fact that a building is currently being constructed on Mona Linden’s property for which no Land Use Application has been received. The Clerk was directed to send a “Cease and Desist” letter within a week. The Clerk reported that a Land Use Application is also expected from Gooseberry Cabins for construction of a new sign.
13. Correspondence –Lake County Land Use Applications were passed around. Several “Right of Interment” documents were reviewed and signed. And, a letter from Arrowhead Regional Development Commission was discussed. The letter requested nomination of a member to the commission, however Mike Hoops explained that this is a mistake, we don’t nominate for this. He also explained that he plans to continue serving the ARDC as an “at-large” representative.
14. Mowing Bids – The Board opened two bids received for seasonal mowing for 2019. North Harbor Services bid \$3,750 for the Cemetery area and \$3,250 for the sewer pond area. North Shore Tree & Stump Removal bid \$3500 for the Cemetery area and \$3500 for the sewer pond area. The costs of the bids were challenged as they are higher amounts than paid in the past. Town Operations and Facilities Manager Reineccius suggested purchasing a good mower and doing this work in-house with employees. The Board directed Reineccius to come back with prices on mowers. No decisions were made.
15. Next Year’s Meeting Schedule – A proposed schedule was reviewed with several corrections noted. The schedule will be finalized in the next meeting once members have had time to take it home for consideration.
16. Town Hall Maintenance Items – No discussion on this topic.
17. Cemetery – A meeting was scheduled for January 22nd at 6:00 pm to discuss cemetery issues and changes to cemetery rules. Moen reported that he has the electronic file of the Cemetery Directory sign is ready for Silver Creek Signworks. Reineccius reported that Mike Hoops Jr. loaned the Township use of his mini-excavator for a grave opening last week.
18. Road Signs for Township Buildings – Designs by Silver Creek Signworks were reviewed, and some changes in wording and colors were discussed. Two road signs will be ordered after final decisions in the regular meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. upon motion by Hoops, second Moen. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk