

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday December 11, 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.

Absent: Town Operations and Facilities Manager Reineccius (due to out-of-town sewer training).

Visitors Present: Lake County Director of Environmental Services Christine McCarthy; Lake County Environmental Services Specialist Neva Maxwell, Minnesota GreenCorps member Rachel Brodeur, and Jim Potter of Grand Superior Lodge.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Constituent Concerns: Jim Potter appeared on behalf of Grand Superior Lodge to report a major water leak and request a meter adjustment. Because water flow is used to determine the sewer rate for commercial accounts, Potter requested that the Board subtract 412,669 gallons from their annual 2018 meter readings. The leak that lasted four months has now been repaired. Potter presented, photos and detailed calculations based on the prior year's flow per occupant to calculate the amount of water lost. Moen stated that he was impressed with the calculations. Sewer Operator Hoops also found the calculations acceptable. Potter was informed that the Board would make a decision in next week's regular meeting.
2. Lake County Waste Reduction and Recycling – Christine McCarthy, Director of Environmental Services for Lake County, came to the meeting to speak of waste reduction and recycling along with Neva Maxwell and Rachel Brodeur. They had hoped for constituents to be present, but that wasn't the case. McCarthy requested that a member of Silver Creek join the Lake County Waste Advisory Committee that meets quarterly. She noted that there will be increased challenges with landfill space being scarce and MPCA not willing to license new landfills. Neva Maxwell explained that it is important for local leadership to be aware of some global issues affecting recycling, specifically that China is not accepting US recyclables at the rate they were in the past. She also discussed the surveys collected last year and the focus on education of residents and access to recycling. Funding was received from the MPCA to work on education and purchase mobile recycling trailers. The Board was encouraged to think about whether Silver Creek could be involved as a periodic drop-off site for the mobile trailer and a future community clean-up day. Maxwell introduced saying she would be getting out in the community, talking to people, and handing out magnets and flyers on recycling. A batch of the magnets, that explain what items are and are not recyclable at the Lake County Recycling Center were left with the Clerk to hand out to constituents as desired. Brodeur explained that they are planning a seven-week community education series called the Interactive Homeowners Guide. The series will cover recycling, conservation, avoiding invasive species and more.
3. Road and Safety – Town Operations and Facilities Manager Reineccius was not able to attend because he was away at training, but his written road report was reviewed. It was reported that new tires were put on the sewer truck and a complete service was done on the grader. Due to roads being slick, a fair bit of salt/sand has already been used and the amount of salt/sand may be short. The Board questioned this aspect of the report, with Hull stating that 300 yards is the amount normally used. This year, because the shed was already half full, only 180 yards were added to the quantity on hand.
4. FEMA – The Clerk reported that FEMA is requesting “dimensions” for each washout on every road. Hoops stated that he and Anderson could go out next week on a road tour to measure each one. Anderson is the only member of the road crew who worked during the flood event to still be employed at the Township.
5. Drug Testing Schedule – The Board discussed the fact that Silver Creek's Drug and Alcohol Policy doesn't specify the means for the timing of random drug testing. With regard to frequency, after some

back and forth there was consensus on quarterly testing. Hull then proposed that a random number generated be used by the Clerk in which the first number between one and ninety will be the day of that quarter, and then the second number randomly generated will decide which employee is to be tested based upon whether the number is even or odd. Reineccius can be even and Thompson odd. The idea will be voted on at the Regular meeting.

6. Sewer Operations – Sewer Operator Hoops explained that currently there are no safety screens on the lift station access covers, so that employees could fall in when working on them. He presented two quotes from companies with solutions. The hatch from Tri State Pump and Control is more expensive at \$1737 and the other quote was for a net from Minnesota Pump Works at \$370. There was consensus that it would be good to have some safety measures in place. A decision on which solution is best will be made in the Regular meeting.
7. Stewart River Sewer Project – An email had been received from Wenck regarding possible attendance by Silver Creek at the St. Louis County Days in St. Paul. This is an event that would enable some lobbying. Moen and Hull both spoke against going based upon lack of success last year in spite of a number of visits and hiring a lobbyist. While they feel the sewer is a good idea, they don't believe there is legislative will to fund it. As of this meeting, none of the Supervisors are planning to attend.
8. CDSSD Land Use Ordinance Transition – This is waiting on Lake County to respond to Silver Creek's formal request for them to take over land use administration.
9. Land Use Applications – The Board discussed Linden's after-the-fact application for a building permit for a wood shed. Linden has now submitted a complete application and paid the \$400 fee. However, upon a site visit, it was determined that the wood shed is approximately 4-5 feet too close to a drainage ditch that is considered an intermittent waterway. Two possible options for handling the situation were discussed - either Linden is required to apply for an after-the-fact variance and pay the \$800 fee or Linden is granted the permit with the requirement that the shed be physically moved back from the waterway to comply with the setback. As the shed has no floor and is sitting on blocks, it should be possible to move it to the proper setback. The Board will decide in next week's regular meeting.
10. Gooseberry Village Tax Forfeit Land – The Board reviewed the invoice submitted by Lake County for the purchase price of the tax forfeit acres. The total cost including taxes and fees is \$140,639.80. Once Silver Creek has purchased this property, it will be sold to Hammes and Oliver for approximately \$250,000 with proceeds applied to the PFA sewer loan. The Board questioned the 3% Assurance Fee itemized on the invoice, and then asked the Clerk to find out why that fee is required. The check for the purchase will be cut for the next meeting.
11. Hammes Model Home VRBO – No change on this request.
12. Correspondence – The Board reviewed a notification of adjustment to the amount of Town Aid coming to Silver Creek. The 2018 total will now be \$8,228.
13. Newsletter – The Clerk reported on plans for the newsletter. The first edition is planned for February and a quarterly publication is planned. The Clerk would like to do the newsletter in color for online posting but do the print in black and white. Discussed mailing costs. UPS can help with the copying, folding and shipping, but final cost estimates are not yet available.
14. Record Retention and Shredding – About ten boxes of old bills and documents no longer required to be saved were removed from the cold storage closet and are ready for shredding. Discussed vendors and costs. The Board agreed that having the Developmental Achievement Center in Two Harbors do the work was inexpensive at thirty cents a pound.
15. Board Meeting Start Times – After some back and forth it was decided to follow the same protocol as last year, with meetings starting at 6:00 p.m. during the winter and 7:00 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time.
16. Town Hall Maintenance Items – No discussion on this topic.
17. Cemetery – Hold for the special meeting scheduled January 22nd.

18. Road Signs for Township Buildings – An estimate from Silver Creek Signworks for proposed road signs was reviewed. For the two road signs, each of which consists of 3 panels, the quote is \$1785. Moen spoke in favor of the signage, saying it would assist constituents and visitors with finding the right building and would give the township a very professional image. Hoops spoke in support of Silver Creek Signworks noting that their prices are fair. The visibility of the color scheme was also discussed. A decision will be made at next week's regular meeting.
19. Seasonal Mowing Bids – This discussion is waiting for the Town Operations and Facilities Manager and Assistant.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. upon motion by Hull, second Hoops. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk