

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 12, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Silver Creek, in the County of Lake, and State of Minnesota, held in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019 was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Town Clerk Alison Oftedahl.

Those present were:

Greg Hull	Denny Moen	Mike Hoops	Chuck Voss
Rachelle Hull	Paul Bauman	Nancy Mancini	Chris Hogan
John Bathke	Elizabeth Busa	Jim Williams	Mary Thomatz
Dan Overby	Allyson Aultfather	David Aultfather	Jon Fogelberg
Marty Anderson	Bill Stokinger	Jody Reineccius	Paul Thompson
Alison Oftedahl	Jamie Pellman	Rich Sve	

Rich Sve agreed to preside as moderator after nomination by Greg Hull and unanimous yea vote.

The Agenda was approved as presented upon motion by Bathke, second Voss.

The Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved as presented upon motion by Hull, second Busa. Carried unanimously.

The Treasurer’s Report, as presented by Pellman was accepted as written upon motion by Voss, second Williams. Carried unanimously.

The next Annual Meeting was set for Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 8:15 p.m. upon motion by Williams, second Rachelle Hull. Carried unanimously.

In introducing the levy, two areas of increase were discussed: Road and Bridge and Fire. The Road and Bridge increase was attributed to personnel. In past years, three or four temporary employees were added for summer. However, it has become very difficult to find qualified individuals for temporary work. The expansion to two full-time permanent employees is only a bit more expensive and provides back up for on-call and vacation situations and should decrease overtime. The Fire increase was attributed to fire expenses being higher than anticipated and the need to make up for a negative balance in that fund. Next it was explained that two budget options are on the table. Option 1 was described as “bare bones” whereas Option 2 includes increased funding for the old Town Hall and Chapel. Attendees were asked to consider and discuss the fate of the old buildings. They need significant repairs to foundation, floor, roof, heating systems, and chimney. A levy increase of \$25,000 per year for five years could be approved for renovations. Several people spoke in favor of demolishing these buildings based upon concern over expenses and asbestos and lead paint mitigation. This was countered by the assertion that removing asbestos and lead paint would be an equal expense in either a demolition or a renovation, and therefore should not be considered. Several spoke in favor of preserving the buildings for the intrinsic historical value and for larger community events. It was felt that if the facility had the amenities such as the Finland Community Center that it would be used frequently. Currently Silver Creek is hosting three public events: The International Ukulele Festival, the Beargrease Cub Run Dogsled Race and the Borealis Yoga Festival.

After lively back and forth discussion, it was suggested that the extra levy funds might be needed regardless of the fate of the building, which couldn’t be fully decided at the moment.

Upon voting, the following “Option 2” Budget and Levy was approved with 19 votes for and 2 against:

<b><u>BUDGET:</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
General	\$77,150
Road & Bridge	\$279,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$32,500
Fire	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$5,000
General Debt Service	<u>\$56,000</u>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$519,650</b>

<u>LEVY:</u>	<u>2020</u>
General	\$45,000
Road & Bridge	\$205,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$25,000
Fire	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$1,500
General Debt Service	\$58,500
CD Sewer Taxes	<u>\$5,714</u>
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>\$410,714</b>

In his Annual Report, Chairman Hull summarized the year as quieter than the previous year. Accomplishments included a privacy fence built next to the pavilion with all donated materials, and a land deal to recoup lost assessments for the sewer system. Silver Creek purchased the tax forfeit Gooseberry Village land for \$140,000 and is selling it for \$250,000 to net approximately \$110,000 for final repayment of the PFA loan. Hull also counted the hiring of Jody Reineccius and Paul Thompson as significant accomplishments and described their work as "more bang for the buck." Hull and others in the meeting complimented them on the condition of township roads. Ongoing projects included the Stewart River project which been halted since it was removed from last year's bonding bill. Partnership with the City of Two Harbors or with a wider regional group has been under consideration. A second ongoing project is transition of zoning for the Castle Danger Subordinate Service District over to Lake County. Because environmental and wetlands expertise is needed for administration of land use, Lake County is better staffed to administrate the zoning. Our zoning differs very little from theirs so the impact to residents should be minimal. One hearing for affected residents has been conducted with a second one planned. Finally, Hull identified planned improvements to the Silver Creek Cemetery including new flags, a lighted flag pole, and a new directory sign for the kiosk.

Jody Reineccius, Town Operations and Facilities Manager then introduced himself and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work for Silver Creek. He introduced Paul Thompson who was previously employed by Lake County Highway Department. Reineccius discussed his history in working with Mike Hoops on the Castle Danger Sewer System when it was first built and that he is mentoring with Hoops to obtain full licensure. Thompson brings road expertise and they are both spending quite a bit of time on roads. Reineccius commented on high rainfall last fall. Roads have required a lot of grading. According to records, 4000 yards of gravel were put down on Township roads last year and 10,000 gallons of chloride was applied for dust control. Sixteen culverts were replaced, but there are a number that still need attention. In closing, residents were encouraged to call him with any road issues.

Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve provided a report on county initiatives affecting Silver Creek. He reported that the Encampment River bridge over Highway 3 will be replaced this summer. He then invited everyone to come to the Open House planned for this spring for the Lake County's new Highway Building that is very close to fully complete. He discussed broadband service and explained the sale of Lake Connections which is pending and will allow the County to get out from under a large debt. Fiber lines are being run on Red Maple and Town Roads in Silver Creek right now.

The uncanvassed results of the election were read. Chuck Voss was voted in as Supervisor and Jamie Pellman was voted in for another term as Treasurer.

Finally, Mike Hoops was recognized and thanked for 18 years of service as Supervisor and many accomplishments. Everyone was invited to wish him well at a retirement Open House planned for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room.

There being no further business, meeting was recessed at 9:37 p.m. upon motion by Bathke, second Hull. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk

moderator

