

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 16, 2019

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday April 16, 2019 in the Board Meeting Room for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present: Supervisors Greg Hull, Denny Moen and Chuck Voss; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was then recessed for the purpose of holding the CDSSD Sewer Rate Hearing.

Chairman Hull resumed the meeting with a call to order at 7:20 p.m.

1. Constituent Concerns – None.
2. Road and Safety – Town Operations and Facilities Manager Reineccius reported that it snowed immediately after the wing was removed from the grader. Roads are in rough shape and in need of grading but are still too wet. Dry weather is needed. Reineccius and Thompson have added equipment and facilities in the sewer room for a pump test center to be used in testing and repairing sewer pumps. They also serviced the Excavator, fixed a leak in the wall of the Clerk's office and are working on repair of Pavilion screens, along with a variety of sewer work. Reineccius will come in this Saturday to open the Pavilion for the removal and pickup of winter storage items.
3. Road and Bridge Finances – The Road and Bridge fund balance is estimated at \$60,000. The balance is up from a month ago due to the receipt of Taconite and Gas Tax monies.
4. FEMA – The Clerk sent additional requested photos of the Town Road Bridge before and after repair to FEMA but received word of two problems. First, FEMA will only pay to restore structures or roads to their pre-disaster state, ruling out the sheet pile that was installed to stop the scouring under the bridge. Second, the official bridge inspection records showed that previous scour existed and was not repaired after the 2012 flood. FEMA did not feel that the damage being claimed was necessarily caused by the 2018 flood event. They have lowered allowable expenses on the bridge to \$4,000. Minnesota HSEM has sent approval of \$21,269.23 in reimbursement for the event overall but Silver Creek has not yet received the funds.
5. Board Reorganization: The group considered the demands of the Chairman position and discussed who should serve as Chairman this year. At issue was whether the chairmanship should be automatically rotated every year or have one person serve for a longer time. In the past there have been periods where it was automatically rotated and other periods where one person chaired many years. Moen expressed full willingness to step up and serve as Chair but also full willingness to have Hull continue if he wishes. The group expressed approval for the good job Chairman Hull has been doing. Voss is in his first year and would not be ready. Supervisors were asked to think about it between now and next week's Reorganization meeting. Conversation then turned to wages. There have been no increases in the wages for elected positions in quite a while. It was stated in the meeting that Supervisor wages hadn't increased in four years, the Clerk wage has not been increased in two years, and the Treasurer wage may not have been raised in 4 or 5. There was consensus that it is time for some increases. It was suggested that the Chairman wage should better reflect the greater responsibility and hours required of the Chair. The wage rates of Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer need to be equalized. Final decisions on amounts will be made at the April 23rd Reorganization meeting.
6. Cost of Sewer Repairs at Gooseberry Cabins – Based upon the fact that the frozen pumps removed from Jaegers are in good shape and can be reused and recognizing that the cause of the freeze up was not proven to be owner negligence, Jaegers will not be charged anything for the January repair of their sewer system.
7. Stewart River and WIFIA – Hoops reported that he has not heard from Brett Ballavance in regard to WIFIA funding inquiries.
8. Land Use Applications – With regard to Gooseberry Cabin's request to rent out one of the houses on their resort property, Hull reported that he called the previous owners, the Ericksons, who confirmed

that the house in question was rented seasonally and otherwise for many years in the past by them. This house therefore can be considered as included in the "Grandfathered" status of the resort. As a result, the Clerk sent a letter stating that Jaegers will not be required to file an application for this request. The Clerk also received a land use application from Jaegers for a new entrance sign at Gooseberry Cabins. The application is currently being processed.

9. CDSSD Land Use Transition – Hull reported that there may be more to the process of transitioning the zoning and land use administration to Lake County than simply vacating an ordinance. He stated that it may take a citizen vote at a special election. He had initial conversation with Attorney Scott Witty and is waiting for additional guidance on the matter.
10. Correspondence – Approved land use applications processed by Lake County were passed around. A breakdown of the fire support costs from the City of Two Harbors Fire Department was received. And, a letter from FEMA showing approved funds for the 2018 flood was presented.
11. Mailbox Policy – The Board considered a draft Mailbox Policy based on that of Lake County and consistent with its pricing. The policy lists available services, prices for mailbox support hardware and installation, and explains legal requirements for mailbox supports. The Board will make a decision on adoption of this policy in the regular meeting next week.
12. Donation of Chairs – Larry Costello came in and donated eight used metal folding chairs to the Township. A Resolution Accepting Donation will need to be voted on in the regular meeting.
13. Newsletter – Hull plans to write about the Old Town Hall as a follow up to the levy discussion that occurred at the Annual meeting in which some wanted to save the old Town Hall while others wanted to see it torn down. He also suggested a story featuring the Pavilion with photos and rental information. A feature is planned on the Silver Creek Cemetery showing the projects going on there.
14. Request to Donate Bench to Cemetery – Jeanne Ryan would like to donate a marble bench to the cemetery for public use as a seating area. It would be engraved in memory of family members Emmert and Dorothy Johnson. The Board discussed a location for the bench and thought it might be nice next to the directory kiosk. The Clerk was directed to let Ryan know that yes, this donation could be accepted. Once the bench is actually received, a Resolution Accepting Donation will be needed.
15. Gooseberry Village Tax Forfeit Land – The land sale is complete. A check for the property was received last week and so the Township now has the funds needed for final repayment of the CDSSD Wastewater Public Facilities Authority Loan.
16. Seasonal Mowing Bids – The Town is waiting for the selected vendor to provide proof of liability insurance, a W-9 and the Minnesota's Contractors Withholding Affidavit.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. upon motion by Moen, second Voss. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk