

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MAY 14, 2019

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday May 14, 2019 in the Board Meeting Room for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present were Supervisors Greg Hull, Denny Moen and Chuck Voss; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius, and Sewer Operator Mike Hoops.

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

1. Constituent Concerns – Mike Braun called the Clerk prior to the meeting with concerns about lakeshore erosion next to a portion of Cliff Point Road. The Supervisors and Road Crew inspected the area during the annual Road Tour. Hull stated that because the erosion is beyond the point of our easement, it is therefore private property, and the Town cannot work on it. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to Braun regarding the situation. Reineccius was asked to pound some stakes at the edge of our easement for the purpose of monitoring how fast the shoreline is eroding next to the road.
2. Road and Safety – Town Operations and Facilities Manager Reineccius reported that the road grader blade bits were replaced to enable grading on drier roads. Most township roads viewed on the Road Tour were in pretty good shape. Beaver eradication at a culvert near Staples property on Alger Grade was undertaken last week. On the Road Tour, Alger Grade was been identified as a high priority. Alger needs a variety of work including ditching, several culvert replacements, and removal of a large rock. Traffic will be detoured onto Alger from Highway 3 later this summer during Lake County's culvert replacement project. Also identified on the Road Tour was the Grimmer Road which is in need of gravel; Press Camp Rd, which has a couple driveway approaches that need to be smoothed; and Marble Lake Road which is suffering from erosion at the edges of the road. In addition, legal work is needed to obtain an easement for expansion of the turnaround on Alder Road. Reineccius and the Clerk were tasked with looking to see if township files contain a survey of Alder.
3. Road and Bridge Finances – The Clerk reported that an updated fund balance was not yet available.
4. FEMA – The Clerk shared a notification from FEMA that only \$4,000 of the Town Road Bridge repair could qualify for reimbursement by FEMA, based upon some damage predating this flood event and the fact that FEMA won't cover improvements. The Clerk also reported that the amount previously approved by FEMA for general road damages has not yet been received despite a letter stating that that the payment should be here by now.
5. General Sewer Operations – Hoops reported that all the dripper lines are now cleared except for six of them and that irrigation has begun with one million gallons of discharge being pumped out of the treatment ponds this week. As a training activity, Supervisor Voss rode along with Operator Hoops to pick up the winter boxes and blankets from customer grinder stations. Hoops also reported that two used pumps were picked up from Bob Miller, resulting in seven good replacements on hand. Additionally, Hoops noted that he will be working with Sawtooth Electric repairing damaged panels.
6. Hammes/Oliver Sewer Installation – The team is ready to resume work on this installation project early next week, however, Hanco has not returned contract nor COI. Hanco is the contractor who will bore the line under Highway 61. Reineccius agreed to reach out to them. Hoops noted that other parts of the project can begin. Owner Oliver wishes to move into the house in the next few weeks and move his family in shortly thereafter.
7. The Rustic Inn Cafe Sewer Bill – The group discussed the possibility of issuing a credit to the Sullivans for some or all of the sewer charges collected during the time the restaurant was closed after a fire. Beth Sullivan had approached the Clerk to see if an allowance might be made. The restaurant was closed to customers for about two and a half months. The group was favorable towards issuing a credit and undecided on the exact amount. Decision to be made next week.
8. Building Maintenance – Reineccius reported that Thompson took the ripped Pavilion screen up to Silver Bay and had it repaired for \$40.
9. Fund Transfer to CDSSD Debt Fund – After subtracting attorney fees, proceeds from the land sale of the tax forfeit Gooseberry Village property amounted to \$101,386.40. The group was in consensus

that these funds be transferred into the CDSSD Debt Fund, per the stated purpose of the land sale. The fund transfer will be voted on at next week's regular meeting.

10. Possible Early Payoff of the PFA Loan – Chairman Hull explained that the Township has levied \$5,714 for this loan, and it appears that the levy proceeds collected can only be used for the purpose of paying the loan balance, and so the loan must have an unpaid balance on November 30th. Hull suggested full payoff on December 1st, prior to the end of the year, thereby saving \$10,000 of required external audit. Another suggestion considered was paying off the full amount of the loan less \$5,714 (the levy amount) in August and paying the final balance just before the end of this year. A decision will be made at the next meeting.
11. Stewart River – There was no discussion on Stewart River.
12. Land Use – Paul Caruso – Based upon inquiries made by Caruso regarding construction of a new house, a site visit was conducted to check for wetlands. Hoops and Voss accompanied Oftedahl on the site visit. Caruso was provided with a copy of the ordinance, the land use application and instruction. However, in viewing the existing house and other buildings, a concern was identified with the number of old vehicles parked extremely close to Lake Superior.
13. Land Use – Ted Vanderbeek – A Land Use Permit was issued to Vanderbeek for a new driveway after review of his application, and completion of a wetlands inspection by the County.
14. CDSSD Land Use Transition – Hull reported on advice received from Attorney Scott Witty regarding the legal process of vacating the Land Use Ordinance. The attorney stated that a published and posted ten day notice is required prior to the public Hearing but that mailings to each affected land owner are not required. A delayed implementation is fine provided it does not extend beyond the date of the next Township Election. Witty is preparing a correctly worded Resolution for the vacating of the ordinance.
15. Correspondence – The following were reviewed:
 - Three approved Land Use Applications processed by Lake County.
 - One Notification of a Land Use Hearing by Lake County.
 - Notification of Lake Connections' purchase by Pinpoint Minnesota LLC.
 - Notification from St. Louis County confirming continued participation in the Northeast Minnesota HOME Consortium Joint Powers Agreement
16. Cemetery Issues – The following cemetery issues were discussed:
 - Maintenance and Improvements – Reineccius reported that the flagpole was straightened and the new solar lights attached. Raking and grounds cleanup is underway and the gates have been straightened. The group agreed that gravel should be added to the road through the cemetery. The group discussed the rotation of the kiosk, how best to accomplish it and the likelihood of breaking the wood. The Directory sign has not yet been received, and it would not be good to chance breaking the kiosk just before Memorial Day weekend.
 - Lois Laine Request – Laine is requesting an exception to the cemetery rule that prohibits two footstones on one plot. Two sets of cremains are allowed in one plot, but she wishes to have both her mother's footstone and her father's Veteran footstone on the plot. Clerk and Reineccius were tasked with measuring both stones since the Veteran's is here to see if they would fit side by side.
 - Jeanne Ryan's potential bench donation – Ryan has not yet informed the Township if the suggested cemetery bench donation is confirmed.
 - Town Hall Rental by Laine – A funeral service will be held in the Town Hall and at the Cemetery on June 7th.
 - Marker and Monument Issues – Reineccius completed a full inspection of the Cemetery and found a handful of locations with problems such as stones in an aisle instead of on a plot, footstones in the headstone position or markers not aligned properly. Most of the group did not feel it would be feasible to correct past errors, so no action is planned on this problem at the moment.

17. Road Signs for Township Buildings – The new road signs for the Township have been delivered by Silver Creek Signworks and are ready to be installed.
18. Newsletter – Rough drafts of the next newsletter were distributed to Supervisors for their additions, subtractions and approval.
19. Clerk Vacation – Discussed the Clerk’s plan to be out from May 25 – June 3rd. Deputy Clerk Laura Kleive has agreed to assist with Land Use inquiries and to handle any urgent needs that should arise. Treasurer Pellman can check for any monies received that week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. upon motion by Hull, second Moen. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk