

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JUNE 11, 2019

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday June 11, 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 – None.
2. Road and Safety – Town Operations and Facilities Manager Reineccius reported that road restrictions were removed even though there were still a few soft spots on Alger Grade and Clark Road. The Bans were removed based upon calls from folks needing to haul. Last weekend the roads were all graded, but they need to be done again now. In the last couple of days, repairs were done on the chloride truck to fix an electrical issue affecting the taillights and a load of chloride was picked up in preparation for dust control. In the cemetery, a marker that had been installed in the wrong spot due to a mix-up with names was moved to the correct location and two plots were marked for stones. Also, utilities were turned on in the Town Hall for a Memorial Service held last week. Two Veteran's stones have been delivered and are ready to be installed once the families decide on plots. A fair bit of time was also spent on the sewer installation at the Hammes/Oliver house. In addition to road work, two mailboxes need to be installed and one of the chapel windows needs to be repaired.
3. Road and Bridge Finances – The Clerk reported an estimated June 1 Road and Bridge fund balance of \$41,646.
4. FEMA – \$21,000 was received from HSEM and FEMA has led us to expect another \$4000. The Clerk has been directed to call the Minnesota HSEM office for updates and is awaiting a response.
5. Thompson Review and Raise – Hull reported that per his employment agreement Thompson has completed his probationary period of 1,040 hours worked. Hull and Reineccius will conduct a performance review together next week. Thompson's employment agreement calls for an hourly wage increase upon successful completion of the probationary period.
6. Sewer Operator's Report – Operator Hoops presented and discussed his Operator's report – full text included in the June 18 Regular Meeting minutes. He noted that flows are up across the board, the ponds are very full, and irrigation is in progress. There have been some growing pains in working with RMB for lab tests and they forgot to pick up our samples last week, but the issue was resolved. The new installation at the Hammes/Oliver house has been time consuming.
7. Hammes/Oliver Sewer Installation – Hoops described this installation in his Operator's Report as 'stressful'. The hookup to the house is fully complete, however there are blockages farther up the line that prevents its use. The 900-foot connector line on the other side of Highway 61 was not previously in use and is plugged by debris. Supervisors asked for an estimate as to when Oliver's sewer would be usable. Hoops and Reineccius stated that it is hard to say. Hydraulic jetting is being used to clear the line, but because the location of the blockage is unknown, this is taking a few days. Approximately 200 of 900 feet has been cleared. The expense for the work across the highway 61 from Oliver's house will not be billed to him, it must be borne by the enterprise as a whole.
8. Sewer Enterprise Fund Balance – The Clerk reported an estimated June 1 Sewer Enterprise fund balance of (\$11,485). Approximately \$25,000 is expected to be reimbursed which should bring the Sewer Enterprise fund back into the black.
9. AE2S Emergency Backup Operation Agreement – An agreement which provides for Eric Appelwick and AE2S Operations to be called in for sewer repairs in an emergency was reviewed. Hull challenged the need for the agreement. Hoops responded that it would be good to have in place just in case a circumstance arose in which no Silver Creek employees were available at the time of a sewer emergency. Moen asked about the cost and Hoops explained that there is no cost if we don't use AE2S. The hourly rate during business hours in the contract is \$90. This is less than was

charged last year when AE2S covered during Swanson and Hoops' absence. A decision will be made at the Regular Meeting.

10. Stewart River – An email inquiry from Christine McCarthy was reviewed. She was looking for a status update on the project and wanted to know which Supervisor was driving it. She also wanted to know what to tell constituents, realtors and prospective homeowners who inquire about potential sewer in the Stewart River area. Hull suggested McCarthy be told that based upon the legislature's refusal of funding we have no idea if it will ever be built. Voss expressed interest in pursuing the project and its funding. The group discussed the fact that any pursuit will cost money for travel, per diems and lobbyists.
11. Approve Changes to Township Insurance Coverage – Based upon last month's discussion, MATIT was asked to change some coverage levels and re-invoice the premium. Reineccius had reduced the valuation on the heavy equipment and increased coverage on the trucks based upon a greater likelihood of truck damage. MATIT came back with a net savings of \$1,034 after these changes. The Board was satisfied with the new premium and terms of coverage and authorized the Clerk to pay the invoice.
12. CDSSD Land Use Transition – The Board reviewed a timetable sent by McCarthy for the transition process. In order for Lake County to be able to pick up the administration on January 1st of 2020, they are requesting that Silver Creek hold its public hearing in August and make the decision to vacate by September. The October through December period is needed by Lake County to get through the ordinance revision process. Therefore, after discussion, it was agreed that our public hearing be scheduled for Saturday August 17th at 10:00 a.m. The Clerk was directed to verify whether Lake County representatives were able to attend on that date and then proceed with posting. Hull also reviewed Attorney Witty's advice and then the group read a draft version of the repeal and vacate resolution written by Hanft Fride. No initial changes were made to the document.
13. Town Hall and Pavilion Wedding Reservation – The group discussed whether we should commit to an event that is a year out, in case there were issues with the Hall. The Board did not feel that it would be any problem and directed the Clerk to go ahead and accept the event reservation.
14. Letter of Feedback on Town Hall from Laine – A two-page letter received from Lois Laine was reviewed. The Laines had recently held a Memorial Service in the old Town Hall and wanted to let the Township know that the water in the kitchen is very difficult to use because of the frost-free pump handle. The handle is difficult and heavy to lift, and then the water comes out fast and splashes the operator in the face. The Board discussed the possibility of plumbing the water to the kitchen sink in the normal fashion, and also purchase and installation of an on-demand water heater.
15. Cemetery Issues – The following cemetery issues were discussed:
 - Kiosk Sign – Because the kiosk has not yet been turned, the sign is oriented ninety degrees off where it should be, and this has resulted in some comments that the sign is confusing. Reineccius expressed concerns about turning the kiosk, stating that it may break. In addition, Hoops and another constituent noted that the directory map has an error in the labeling of the cemetery gates. One gate is labeled "East" when in fact there is no East gate. Hull suggested installing a colored flag in each quadrant of the cemetery that would match the color coding on the sign to make it less confusing.
 - Marker Issue – Lois Laine and Jane Wick both have requested an exception to the rule about one footstone per plot. Both are facing this issue because the Veteran's stones do not come with the wife's name engraved. While the rules allow for two cremains in one plot, they only allow for one footstone. Vince Sando at Lake County Veteran's Office was consulted, and he said that sometimes there is space at the bottom to add the wife's name later. It was also verified that Two Harbors cemetery has the same rule about only one footstone per plot.
 - Veteran's Stone Installation Charges – The Board discussed whether a fee should be charged for the installation of Veteran's stones. Some cemeteries do charge a fee. It does not appear to be covered in the current version of Silver Creek Cemetery's Rules. Moen stated that he would do some additional research on the subject so that a decision could be made at the next Regular meeting.

16. Road Signs for Township Buildings – Reineccius reported that Lake County gave permission for the installation of the new road signs for the Township – they are ready to be installed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. upon motion by Moen, second Voss. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk