

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 18, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 in the Board Meeting Room. Present were Supervisors: Greg Hull, Denny Moen and Chuck Voss; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Treasurer Jamie Pellman; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius.

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

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:

None.

ROAD & SAFETY:

Road Report – Town Operations and Facilities Manager Reineccius reported that he and Thompson are placing gravel in problem areas of the roads where there are either soft spots or low areas. Before the detour sends extra traffic onto Alger Grade and Clark Road, these two roads are being addressed and the surface put into the best possible condition. Chloride was applied to Gun Club Road for the County. Dust Control will also be applied to the campground roads at Gooseberry Falls State Park in the next week, and a couple of mailboxes need to be installed. Lake County will be installing the new Township road signs as soon as they have time. Reineccius also noted that flotation jackets and throwables were purchased for compliance with the Working Near Water policy. However, because rings on 90-foot lines were not available, the policy may have to be slightly amended to allow for compliance with a different device.

Road and Bridge Finances – As of the end of May the balance in the Road and Bridge Fund was \$43, 672.32. This amount does not include the \$21,000 of FEMA aid which was received in early June, nor does it include the claims being approved in the current meeting.

FEMA – Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management has informed the Clerk of \$4,000 more in disaster funds coming to Silver Creek. They stated that we should have received these funds already, however that is not the case. The Clerk will continue working with HSEM until the aid arrives.

Thompson Review and Raise – Hull reported that he and Reineccius conducted a performance review of Thompson and agreed that he is doing a good job. Per his MOU, at the successful completion the 1,040-hour probationary period, he is due a pay raise. Hull directed the Clerk to make the raise effective at the start of the current pay period which is June 15, 2019.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

Motion by Moen, second Voss to accept the June 11, 2019 Wastewater Operator's Report as presented below. Passed unanimously.

Wastewater Operator's Report – June 11, 2019

Influent

January	0.4744 million gallons
February	0.4947 million gallons
March	0.6833 million gallons
April	0.6961 million gallons
May	0.7703 million gallons (approximate)

Flows are up across all months compared to last year. A lot of it has to do with the business happening at the commercial accounts. In addition, the district received approximately 0.150 million gallons of trucked in wastewater during this same period.

Effluent

May – Discharged 3.000 million gallons of water

June – to date 1.3 million gallons of water. As in the past couple years, this rainfall has been causing a lot of aggravation for me with the amount of water we have on hand. Right now we are gaining on it, but that can change in an instant. We need to be able to run the irrigation on a continual basis this summer with limited rainfall.

Current Operations

Using RMB Labs has proven to work out quite well. They had some growing pains with a new logistics person this spring and we worked through it. Our new permit requires less sampling than in past years, a good thing. I did have to buy a new meter for testing as one test requires analysis within 15 minutes of sampling.

Dripper lines were walked and flagged this spring and all repairs completed.

We have an adequate supply of pumps on hand at this time with one waiting to be rebuilt. Jody and Paul spent time with Bob Miller doing a pump or two and are confident they can tackle this one when there is time. Seems like we have had a fairly uneventful spring in that regard.

On the other hand, the hookup for the Ben Oliver property has been stressful! Work down there has proceeded slowly because of weather and the need to do other projects. We are across the highway at this point. We have tried various ways to unplug the line and are now prepared to dig it and install cleanout ports. In the meantime, we keep their tank pumped.

All monthly reports and sampling were done and submitted to MPCA in a timely fashion.

Pending Maintenance Items

Plugged line at GFSP

Continue straightening and repairing fencing at the ponds

Check air relief valves throughout the system

Cut out between pump chambers on duplex stations.

Replace flow control valves

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hoops, Wastewater Operator

Wastewater Finances – It was noted that the May Treasurer's Report showed two of three sewer funds in the black. The Sewer Enterprise Fund balance was \$6,195.48 as of May 31st. \$24,000 in reimbursement is anticipated in the next 30-60 days.

Hammes/Oliver Installation – Reineccius reported that Oliver's house has been successfully connected to the CDSSD Wastewater system and that the blocked line across Highway 61 was cleared making their system fully operational. Everything is done except a bit of dressing up with mulch, etc. The invoice from Hanco Utilities for directional boring has not yet been received, but once it is, a full invoice can be sent to Oliver.

AE2S Operations Contract – In discussion, it was agreed that having backup emergency response for wastewater service calls is a good thing. There was some consideration as to whether there might be someone more local who could provide the same service with quicker response and less expense. However, in the interest of having an emergency backup immediately and noting that there no cost to simply having the agreement in place, motion Voss, second Moen to authorize Chairman Hull to sign the contract with AE2S Operations for services. Passed unanimously.

Stewart River – Voss stated that he would like to work on the Stewart River project. This is the beginning of the two-year process to attempt to obtain funding from the legislature. It was noted that state bonding would only cover half of the cost. The other half must be raised from other sources.

LAND USE:

Transition of CDSSD Land Use Administration to Lake County – Motion Hull, second Voss to schedule a public hearing on August 17th at 10 a.m. for the purpose of taking public input by property owners within the district on the adoption of the resolution to repeal the land use ordinance. Motion Hull, second Moen to send a letter along with the resolution to each resident in the Castle Danger Subordinance Service District to ensure that each landowner is aware of the public hearing. Carried unanimously. Information on the Hearing will also be published and posted. The Clerk was directed to write the letter and Hull was entrusted with approving it so that it can be mailed prior to the next meeting.

REVIEW MINUTES:

Motion by Moen, second Voss to accept as written the May 21 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion by Hull, second Voss to accept as presented the June 11 Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes. Carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pellman as follows: TOSC checking: \$59,462.98 and TOSC savings: \$432,877.84 for a total of \$492,340.82. Outstanding Checks totaled \$1,176.79 for a CTAS balance: \$491,164.03. Moen asked for clarification on what expenses were paid from the Cemetery fund. The flagpole lights, mowing contract and payroll made up the expenses for May. Motion by Hull, second Moen to authorize the requested transfer of \$42,000. Passed unanimously. Motion by Voss, second Moen to accept the May Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried unanimously.

READING OF THE BILLS:

The current month's bills were read: claims totaling \$36,051 and payrolls through 6/21/2019. Motion by Moen, second Voss, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board reviewed the following:

- Letter from the State Demographer indicating Silver Creeks' population estimate set at 1,088 with 495 households. The estimate pertains to 2018 and the numbers are used for the state's calculation of Town Aid.
- Agreement with Larson Septic Service to dump in CDSSD treatment ponds.
- Letter to Christiansens responding to their letter about their billboard sign.
- Land use applications approved by Lake County for properties in Silver Creek and notifications of Land Use Hearings.
- Affidavit of Posting.
- MAT Summer Training on June 27th in Duluth. Voss was already registered, Moen expressed interest in the meeting. Motion Hull, second Voss to authorize Moen's attendance and to reimburse any expenses necessarily and actually incurred.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Hall Rental for a Wedding Next Year – The Turks expressed interest in reserving the Town Hall and Pavilion for next year. They have not yet completed the rental agreement.

Town Hall Issues – In response to the letter from Lois Laine, the supervisors directed Reineccius to do some research on "on-demand" water heaters to see if this is a good fit for the bathrooms and kitchen of the old Town Hall. Fire extinguishers in both buildings were serviced last week in response to Laine's letter. The Clerk was directed to write to Laine discussing the actions taken.

PENDING BUSINESS:

Township Insurance – Motion Moen, second Voss to accept the changes to township insurance that were discussed last week. For the heavy equipment, values were lowered and deductibles raised. For vehicles, the coverage was increased. The net effect of the changes was to reduce the premium by \$1.034. Passed unanimously.

Cemetery Kiosk Sign – Reineccius has been directed to rotate the sign which should clear up the issue of complaints about the sign being confusing. With regard to the sign listing an "East" gate when there is only a North and West gate, a temporary fix was considered such as affixing a decal or duct tape over the incorrect word.

Veteran's Stone Installation Charges – No action was taken on this topic.

Cemetery Rule Exception Request – Two complaints have been lodged for a situation in which there was a stone set for a wife, and now the family wishes to add a Veteran's marker (stone) to the same plot where the remains of husband and wife are being mingled. However current cemetery rules allow for only one marker per plot even with two cremains. Hull noted that other cemeteries direct families to purchase a "companion" stone when burying two cremains in one plot. However, this does not solve the issue of the Veteran's stones which do not normally come with the Veteran's spouse's name engraved. The Board discussed whether an exception to this rule should be made or maybe a different rule created for Veterans. The Clerk was directed to respond to the families that the issue is still under consideration.

New Township Road Signs – Lake County will be installing the new road signs as soon as schedules permit.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Moen, second Voss, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday July 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk