

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 in the Board Meeting Room. Present were Supervisors: Greg Hull, Denny Moen and Chuck Voss; Clerk Alison Oftedah; Treasurer Jamie Pellman; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius; and Wastewater Operator Mike Hoops.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:

None.

RECREATIONAL TRAIL PLAN:

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between Silver Creek and the Two Harbors Recreational Trail Club signed in February of 2016, motion Hull, second Voss to approve the Club's proposal for trails presented at last week's COW meeting and allow them to move ahead with building them. Carried unanimously.

ROAD & SAFETY:

Road Report – Town Operations and Facilities Manager Reineccius reported installing the plow and sander on the Sterling and doing some welding on the plow. The Dodge truck had to be taken to Two Harbors Towing for a manifold leak in the exhaust system. This work will be covered under warranty. In the shop, the new propane heater has been installed and is up and running. The thermostat will be turned down at night. Thus far it seems to heat the space quickly in the morning when turned back up. A bit of finishing electrical work still needs to be done. Going forward, the in-floor heating system will be turned off to test whether the new furnace can keep up and to determine how much the electricity bill can be reduced. When the electrician is here, he will also replace two lights that are burnt out. The plan is to change out the fixture and replace it with one that uses less expensive bulbs that can be replaced without an electrician. Also, in the shop, the Overhead Door company has been called to repair the overhead pressure switch of one of the garage doors that isn't closing properly.

Alder Road Turnaround – The Clerk reported that the property owners have signed the easement for the new turnaround off Alder Road and it is ready to be recorded at the County. Reineccius stated that due to the onset of winter, it may be too late to set the turnaround up for use this winter as it needs material and grading.

Frontier Insurance Claim – Reineccius reported escorting a claims adjuster to Trillium. The Adjustor was called by MATIT our insurer based upon a letter from Frontier that they want to claim a damaged phone line from culvert work last summer. The work was in the Township's right of way and the damage occurred because the locator had not marked the phone line. The Adjustor told Reineccius that it appeared to be a very minor issue.

SEWER OPERATIONS:

Reineccius reported that testing of grinder stations was begun but not completed, and that water levels in the pond are pretty good but might need small adjustment. He said they will be building insulated boxes for the two new systems installed this summer. He also reported that there were problems with a couple pumps. Additional new pumps are needed as the ones that failed are too old to be worth repairing. With regard to utility easements for Vanderbeek and Hammes, the Clerk reported that the paperwork is still with the attorneys.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY LOAN PAYOFF:

The check written for the final payment on the PFA loan was presented for signatures and commemorated with a photograph. The \$ 2.2 million PFA loan has been in the process of repayment for nineteen years. This early payoff saves on interest and releases the Township from the requirement and cost of an external audit next year.

SILVER BAY AIRPORT:

The informational public meeting scheduled next Tuesday November 26th at 7:00 p.m. was planned. Aviation Consultant Mike Beard from Bollig, Inc will be there and will provide a handout on finances. A representative

from IRRRB will also attend. The Clerk was asked to verify that representatives from MNDOT Aviation and FAA will be able to attend.

STEWART RIVER:

Voss reported continued work reading through the extensive files on this project.

REVIEW MINUTES:

Motion by Moen, second Voss to approve as written the October 22 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion by Moen, second Hull to approve as amended the November 12 Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes. Both motions carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pellman as follows: TOSC checking: \$57,653.46 and TOSC savings: \$468,968.58 for a total of \$526,622.04. Outstanding Checks totaled \$5,491.99 for a CTAS balance: \$521,130.05. A fund transfer from the General fund into the Fire fund was discussed. Potentially \$30,000 could be transferred to make up for the deficit from prior years. The Clerk was asked to bring details to the next month's COW meeting. Motion by Hull, second Voss to accept the October Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Hull, second Moen to authorize the requested transfer of \$130,000 from savings to checking noting that \$104,000 of this amount was needed for the PFA pay off. Both motions carried unanimously.

READING OF THE BILLS:

The current month's bills were read: claims 8481-8505 totaling \$121,882.60, and payrolls through 11/22/2019. A claim for the final payment of the PFA loan was the reason for the high total. Motion by Voss, second Moen, to authorize payment of the bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board reviewed the following:

- An email from the Minnesota Benefit Association announcing a new Township Officer Group Medicare Supplement Plan including prescription drugs now available for Township officers and their spouses was reviewed.
- Western Lake Superior Water Levels Conference for government officials was discussed. Motion Hull, second Moen to allow Voss to attend this conference and to authorize reimbursement for all expenses necessarily and actually incurred in doing so.
- A University of Minnesota LTAP Pavement Techniques and Strategies flyer was reviewed as it also covers runways. The training sessions are not until next year, but the Clerk suggested that it could be good for one of the employees to attend if the Airport Sponsorship goes through.
- Affidavit of Posting was signed.
- Right of Interment for Tom and Marsha Anderson was signed.
- Lake County approved land use applications were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOU Updates – Motion Hull, second Moen to approve Thompson's updated MOU and new wage of \$26.25 per hour effective as of November 16, 2019, the first day of the current pay period. And, motion Hull, second Voss to approve Reineccius' updated MOU and new wage of \$31.00 per hour effective as of his anniversary date. Both motions carried unanimously.

Land Use Administration Transition to Lake County – The group discussed the request from Lake County for copies of every land use permit granted since 1999. The Clerk was directed to check if API could do this copying work in a cost-effective manner or to consider using the Deputy Clerk to speed up this process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Designation of Absentee Ballot Location – Motion Hull, second Moen to designate the Clerk's Office at 1924 Town Road, Two Harbors, MN 55616 as the location where absentee ballots should be sent in order to be counted for the March 10, 2020 Township Election. Carried unanimously.

Old Town Hall Maintenance Contractor Estimates – An email was received from Tom Ringold in which he estimated that renovations could cost in the ballpark of \$100-175,000. The projects listed included insulation, siding, roof, door, kitchen, HVAC and windows. Moen reported talking to Doug McCarrison, who expressed

interest in the project and plans to come inspect the building. A lengthy discussion of possibilities for the building did not result in any decisions. At issue is whether it would be less expensive to build a new building. Also at issue, is whether a refurbished or new building would be used enough to justify the expense.

Garage Doors for Pavilion – Moen brought in a quote from DoorCo for garage doors for the Pavilion. The price was judged reasonable, but it was agreed that a quote should be requested from Overhead Door. The group discussed that the door openings may not be plum and that each company should come up and inspect the building to determine whether their door systems would work with the old building. The doors would help with seasonal storage and could protect the building from vandalism and allow it to be locked up when not in use.

PENDING BUSINESS:

December Newsletter – Supervisors received copies of the draft. The front-page story will be written based upon next week's special meeting on the Airport. The group discussed plans to use email for final proofing and approval since the newsletter will go to the printer prior to the next meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Moen, second Voss, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday December 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk