

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 10, 2019

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Silver Creek was held on Tuesday November 12, 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; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius, and Sewer Operator Mike Hoops.

Chairman Hull called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Constituent Concerns – None.
2. Road Report – Reineccius reported that much of the time since the last meeting has been spent on plowing and snow removal. After some issues getting to the garage on the day of the bad storm, Reineccius and Thompson were able to clear all Township roads in ten hours and have them open before the county and state highways. No constituent complaints were received. The trucks have been running well. Pumps was out to replace one tire on the loader and one on the grader. The center pin on the grader that has been frozen for years was fixed by Reineccius and Thompson in the past month, so now the blade can be fully raised, and this will help with ditching work. In the shop, the electrician replaced a couple lights and wired the new furnace. The in-floor heat has been turned off as a test of the new furnace and to see how much electricity could be saved. There is more water on the floor due to snow melt from the trucks, but the in-floor drain is working okay. In the next few days they plan to flood the skating rink – the ground has been slow to freeze, but the cold weather coming should help.
3. Alder Road Turnaround Easement – The document previously signed was rejected by the Lake County Recorder's Office for missing required legal elements. Reineccius stated that it is too late for them to use that turnaround this season because the ground is too rough at the location of the new turnaround.
4. Wastewater Operator's Report – Operator Hoops presented the report which will be included in full in the Regular Meeting minutes. He reported that a couple of pumps had to be ordered. He also said that the annual inspections were cut short by the snowfall. The group discussed a customer's request to disconnect from sewer, and what the procedure and criteria should be for that service. It was noted that Lake County requires connection to a sewer or septic when a well exists on a property. Hull directed Hoops and Reineccius to estimate costs for disconnection and reconnection. The Clerk will check with the owner as to whether the house will be torn down or if this is a temporary vacancy. Reineccius then reported on a service call in which a pump had to be replaced up at the Lake County Land Fill. He said that it should not have failed because it was just installed. Reineccius will contact the vendor regarding warranty. Operator Hoops brought up the Wastewater Growth Plan, which was intended to be reviewed every five years, but has not been since 2007. Hull directed the Clerk to add it to the next agenda.
5. Oliver and Vanderbeek Utility Easements – The Oliver/Hammes documents are not back yet – notarized signatures from two couples in two states are needed. Vanderbeek and Mohr have not been in to sign their document yet but have agreed to do so.
6. PFA Payoff – The Clerk received confirmation of that the check for the December 20<sup>th</sup> pay off date was received by the Public Facilities Authority.
7. Silver Bay Airport – The Board discussed the response to the public meeting held November 26<sup>th</sup>. The group agreed that folks seemed to leave the meeting in a more neutral position than when they arrived. Additional potential revenue sources were discussed including having an airport mechanic shop located on site or a commercial helicopter service. Hull discussed the need for Silver Creek to develop its own more detailed plan of maintenance and personnel costs. It was agreed that the minutes from the public meeting could be reviewed tonight to expedite online posting and be able to send them out to constituents who previously sent in comments or concerns.

8. Stewart River – Voss reported that he has read through all the files on Stewart River going back to its inception. He stated that he is looking for minutes from a meeting with Two Harbors that was attended by Wenck on behalf of Silver Creek.
9. Special Meeting Minutes Approval – With several corrections noted, motion Moen, second Voss to approve as corrected the minutes from the November 26<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting on the Airport.
10. Fire Fund – The Board reviewed ten year's expenditures out of the Fire fund versus the amount levied and a document showing receipts this year. The fund's current balance is negative at about (\$48,000). Approximately \$17,500 in levy and Taconite tax funds is expected this year. Hull suggested that a transfer of about \$32,000 from the General fund into Fire fund would erase the negative balance. This was discussed and will be finalized in next week's regular meeting.
11. Correspondence – The Board looked at the following:
  - Request from MN Rural Water to write a letter of support.
  - Michelle Pierson of the DNR sent a request for a letter of support for their grant application for bike trail construction. The stretch of the Gitchi-Gami in question will connect the Two Harbors Campground at Burlington Bay to Flood Bay.
  - Two approved Lake County Land Use Applications for properties in Silver Creek were received.
  - An email from Brett Ballavance at Wenck offering aviation consulting was reviewed.
  - Letters from David Mealey of Silver Bay in protest of Lake County's proposed Lodging Tax were read. Mealey would like to know where Silver Creek Township stands on the issue. The Board discussed the tax, possible benefits and the way it would work. No statement of position on the part of the township was determined.
12. Update Employee MOUs – Hull reported that the part-time MOUs for Sewer Operator and On-Call Equipment Operator are ready for final review with affected employees and then can be brought in for Board approval.
13. Superior Shores Liquor License Application – Silver Creek received a notification from Lake County that the new owner of Superior Shores, North Shore Resort Company, is in the process of applying for an "On-Sale with Sunday Sales" liquor license. It is the same license as was issued to the previous owners. The Application itself has not yet been received. Provided it arrives by the Regular meeting, a decision can be made then. No objections were raised.
14. Election Items – The Township Election filing deadline, Tuesday Dec 31<sup>st</sup> through Tuesday January 14<sup>th</sup>, was noted. A resolution declaring the polling location for all elections in 2020 will be approved next week. And, the polling hours of the Township Election need to be declared in the Regular meeting.
15. 2020 Board Meeting Schedule – Board members reviewed and tweaked next year's schedule and decided to make the meeting start time 6:30 p.m. all year instead of changing between 6 and 7 p.m. as in the past two years. The Clerk will make the necessary changes and bring a final version next week.
16. Old Town Hall Renovation Evaluations – Moen stated that no additional contractor assessments have been received.
17. Pavilion Doors – Doorco came back with an even lower estimate based upon a door with lighter weight material. The new estimate is \$6,500 whereas the previous was \$11,000. An estimate from Overhead door is pending. The group discussed issues with the door height. Depending upon the model of door chosen, the door height will be reduced by one to seven inches. Moen stated that he felt it would interfere with winter storage to lose seven inches. Reineccius will follow up with the vendors to clarify this.
18. Land Use Administration Transition to Lake County – Lake County's hearing notification letter and map of new zones was reviewed. The Clerk reported completion of photocopying of land use applications, permits, and variances for transfer to Lake County. The group discussed an agreement made with the Gordons in their variance in which the Town of Silver Creek required the homeowner

to deposit funds for a future tear down of an out of compliance structure. Will Silver Creek still have legal authority to complete the terms of the agreement? Could this agreement and the deposit could somehow be transferred to Lake County? Attorney advice may be needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. upon motion by Voss, second Moen. Carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk