

Supervisor Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2021

Silver Creek Township

On Tuesday April 20, 2021 the Silver Creek Board of Supervisors met at the Silver Creek Town Hall located at 3827 134th Street NW, Monticello, Minnesota 55362, Wright County, and State of Minnesota. The meeting was tape recorded for transcribing purposes only.

Chair Sandy Forsman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 8 people in the audience at the start of the meeting plus 2 attending on Zoom. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Dan Ness, Supervisor-Zoom
Sandy Forsman, Chair
Mike Ludenia, Supervisor

Barry Heikkinen, Supervisor
Chris Klein, Supervisor
Nancy Betzler, Clerk/Treasurer

Absent: None

All present stood and recited the pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

OPEN FORUM:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion by Supervisor Ludenia to approve, second by Supervisor Heikkinen. Request to move Commissioner Vetsch from old business and take care of it right away. Motion Carried.

Darek Vetsch, County Commissioner was present to discuss the moratorium on gravel pits. He brought a list and map of the gravel pits in Wright County also a copy of the County ordinance. If the Township Board feels the current ordinance is not adequate for the Townships needs they could take action for a moratorium for Silver Creek Twp itself. Twp could make it more or less restrictive than the County's. The Township could take action by a resolution to ask the County to review the current ordinance with a moratorium or without a moratorium. The Township Board can make a recommendation without doing a moratorium. That request would come through the County Board to the Planning Commission to decide if request is warranted or not. County put a moratorium on Solar because they want to review it. New applicants would be subject to the new ordinance; current pits would be grandfathered in. A moratorium would only stop new applicants. You are limited to a 12 month period of time, to research it to make modification to a local ordinance or at the County level. The County follows the State requirements for notifications but could go beyond what the State requirements. The Township can have a more restrictive ordinance than the County and still be under the County P&Z. Townships can put additional layers in the County ordinances for planning & zoning. Other Townships are looking at the land use plans where land will be Ag/Res and if it should be used for gravel pits, but the other side is if you have gravel in the ground you want to use before it becomes Ag/Res because it benefits all citizens in the County. When the land becomes residential it does not work well with neighbors.

Citizen's comments: Have we done research of cost implications, there are a lot of pits that have been reclaimed and now have homes there. Donna favors the moratorium. Some issues are a larger radius, use electronic email rather than letters, need enforcement of the CUP requirements, follow the land use plan or amend it and is there money in escrow for gravel pits. Johann concern was that for the original Martie pit there were 7 conditions but they have not gone that way. CUP restrictions seem to change, if we had an ordinance it would be clearer for the neighbors and the operators.

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Commissioner Vetsch commented the reason it is hard to enforce is because each pit had different conditions so it would be easier in an ordinance rather than in a CUP. The Board discussed the resolution and ordinance. Our Township attorney wrote new ones today for the Boards review. Supervisor Ludenia wondered why we don't just talk about it and send the recommendation to the County because Commissioner Vetsch said they will review the information without a moratorium. We could have a committee with Board members and citizens to discuss what they feel should be in an ordinance. Supervisor Forsman made a motion to table this to next meeting because we just received this this new information, second by Supervisor Ludenia. Motion carried 3-2. Maple Lake Fire Dept. was moved up from old business: Chris McClory & Fire Chief Steve Peterson were present to discuss raising the fire fees to \$85.00 from the present \$65.00 fee. They are working on the 2022 budget. In the past they have been able to pay for new equipment instead of financing them. They are in need of an increase for space in the fire hall so they will need a new fire hall in the future. They want to start setting aside money for it now. If they go to the \$85.00 per fire assessment they would have approximately \$550,000 of savings in 10 years as a start to be able to work for a new hall. Motion by Supervisor Klein to raise the fire fee to \$85.00, second by Supervisor Heikkinen. Motion carried 5-0.

WC Economic Development Authority, EDA moved from new business because Commissioner Vetsch is still here. Wright County is EDA is requesting that each city and township in Wright County elect to participate. Commissioner Vetsch said that EDA does not have taxing authority. If that was ever changed in the further they would have to go back to all participating entity's and get them to reaffirm their participation. They need the EDA to be able to liquidate County property, partner with local communities to be able to be the regional sponsoring body for cities, and access state and federal resources. Motion by Supervisor Ness to move forward with the resolution opting to participate with this Wright Co. organization, second by Supervisor Ludenia. Motion carried 5-0. Resolution number 2021-04-20.

Commissioner Vetsch mentioned to take the broadband survey that we should be getting soon.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Regular meeting minutes 04/06/2021. Motion by Supervisor Heikkinen to approve, second by Supervisor Ludenia. Motion carried 5-0. List of Claims (List of Disbursements presented to Board at Meeting) – Included check numbers 16836-16885 in the total amount of \$36,372.57. Motion by Supervisor Ludenia to approve, second by Supervisor Heikkinen. Motion carried 5-0. Affidavit of Official Interest in Claims – Motion to approve claim by Supervisor Ludenia, second by Supervisor Ness. Motion carried, 4-0-1 abstained, Chris Klein interested party.

Audit of Claims:	16861 Hakanson & Anderson	1615.00
	16863 John Deere	199.83
	16870 Northern Safety	249.36
	16879 West Central	4239.29

Motion by Supervisor Klein to approve, second by Supervisor Ludenia. Motion carried, 5-0

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Clerk/Treasurer’s Report:

There is a public hearing on the petition of the MN commissioner of transportation to modify a portion of county ditch 24. Should we reply? Motion by Supervisor Heikkinen to say the only concern of the Silver Creek Township Board is that we don’t want the cost assessed to Township property owners. Second by Supervisor Klein. Carried 5-0.

Do we want to send a reminder postcard about clean-up day or do a newsletter? Motion by Supervisor Klein that clerk can spend up to \$1500 for postcards for the annual clean-up day, second by Supervisor Ludenia. Carried 5-0.

Balance as of March 31, 2021

Revenue Account:	\$ 109,539.94	Fire Fund	\$57,289.97
Road & Bridge Acct:	<u>276,241.14</u>	Contingency Fund	9,117.88
Total Available	385,781.08	Checks Out	946.14
		Checking	24,560.10

Motion by Supervisor Ludenia to approve, second by Supervisor Klein. Motion carried 5-0.

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Supervisor Ludenia reported that they finished the shoulder disking, worked on chip seal, first round of grading done and now working on filling inslope on Crofoot Ave. Motion by Supervisor Heikkinen to accept the report, second by Supervisors Forsman, Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business:

Maple Lake Fire Dept.: Discussed at start of meeting.

Resolution Requesting Co Moratorium on Gravel Pits: Discussed when Commissioner Vetsch spoke.

Social Media changes: We do not have any of the mentioned sites, Facebook, Twitter etc. Supervisor Heikkinen will go through the policy and make changes. motion by Supervisor Heikkinen to continue to the May 18 meeting, second by Supervisor Ludenia. motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance MIDCO Franchise: Motion by Supervisor Klein at accept the ordinance granting a franchise to Midcontinent Communications as printed on the 20th Day of April 2021, second by Supervisor Ness. Ordinance # 2021-04-2021A. Motion carried 5-0

New Business:

Chris Wall second driveway request: Mr. Wall on 142 St was present to explain the request; they would like to put the second driveway on Dillon Ave. They are planning on putting in a shed and want to keep as much green space as possible, because they would have to remove trees if they use the current driveway. Motion by Supervisor Ludenia to allow the second driveway for his shed, second by Supervisor Klein. Motion carried 4-1.

Changes to Employee handbook: Attorney is still checking on it. Motion by Supervisor Klein to continue, second by Supervisor Ludenia. Carried 5-0.

Wright County Economic Development Authority Resolution: Discussed when speaking with Commissioner Vetsch.

Misc.:

Adjournment: Motion by Supervisor Ludenia to adjourn, second by Supervisor Klein. All present in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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Respectfully Submitted
Silver Creek Township Clerk
Nancy Betzler
April 20, 2021 Minutes
Approved by Board of Supervisors
05/04/2021
