

**MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AND  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP  
January 8, 2020**

Public Hearing on the Silver Creek Township Parks/Rec Plan for 2020-2024 called to order by Supervisor Saunders at 6:30 pm.

Flag Ceremony

Roll Call–Present: Trustee Glynn, Trustee Zuhl, Supervisor Saunders, Clerk Behnke, Treasurer Kuriata

Approval of Agenda Public Hearing – Motion by Trustee Zuhl, Treasurer Kuriata.  
Motion carried for voice vote.

Supervisor Saunders explained the purpose of the public hearing is to hear objections, support and comments on the proposed 2020-2024 Silver Creek Township Community Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan.

Public Comment – Jim Humphries as the chair of the Park/Rec Committee for Silver Creek Township asks the board to approve the plan at this time. He hopes that all the questions and concerns from last year have been addressed at this time. Trustee Glynn noted he thinks this plan will work.

Motion to Close Public Hearing by Clerk Behnke, seconded by Trustee Zuhl.  
Motion carried by voice vote. Public Hearing closed 6:45 pm.

Regular Monthly Township Meeting called to order by Supervisor Saunders – 7:00 pm.

Roll Call–Present: Trustee Glynn, Trustee Zuhl, Supervisor Saunders, Clerk Behnke, Treasurer Kuriata

Approval of Agenda –Motion by Treasurer Kuriata, seconded by Clerk Behnke to remove Ordinance 19-04 (sewer ordinance amendment) from the agenda to allow for further review. Motion carried by voice vote. Motion by Clerk Behnke, seconded by Trustee Glynn to add in a review of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget. Motion by Trustee Glynn to approve the agenda with these changes, seconded by Trustee Zuhl. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment – Dowagiac Young Professionals are in attendance.

Approval of Minutes for the regular board meeting held on December 11, 2019 and the Special Meeting on Insurance held on December 18, 2019. Motion to approve the minutes for both of these meetings as printed; Motion by Treasurer Kuriata and seconded by Trustee Glynn. Motion carried by voice vote.

Approval of payment of Bills/Claims–Motion by Trustee Glynn, seconded by Clerk Behnke.  
Roll call vote: Yes (5) Trustee Zuhl, Supervisor Saunders, Clerk Behnke, Treasurer Kuriata,  
Trustee Glynn

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

Reading of Communications – none.

#### Health and Safety Services Reports

Police Report–7 complaints; 2 warning; 1 accident; 5 assists and 33 property inspections;  
4 liquor inspections – no violations

#### Fire Report

Indian Lake –2 in our township –1 in Silver Creek Township; 1 assist; they’ve addressed  
several burning complaints

Sister Lakes- 4 in Silver Creek; 1 in Bainbridge; 2 in Keeler; 1 assist in Hamilton;

Ambulance Report- 20 total calls; avg. resp. time: 8:29; 5 -P1 calls; 15 -P2 call ;0 -P3calls

#### Building/Zoning Inspector's Report – building & demo permits

Permits: Building-6; fees \$3, 166.00 ; total construction value \$402,000.

Demo-2; fees \$150

ZC-2 ; fees \$200;

Mechanical-6 ; Plumbing- 4; Electrical- 4 ;

Zoning Appeals Board Report – Trustee Glynn - no meeting last month

Planning Commission Report – Trustee Zuhl – no meeting in December, next is 1/22/20

Treasurer's Report – General Fund Balance \$274,412.51; Indian Lake Sewer \$250,844.49.

#### Operational Reports

Indian Lake Sewer–1<sup>st</sup> billing for 2020 will go out next week; SAW grant done

Sister Lakes Area Sewer–1<sup>st</sup> billing for 2020 will go out next week; meeting 1/9/20

Parks & Recreation – Russom Park board will meeting Tuesday 1/14/20 at 7pm

Public Safety Committee – will meet next week

#### CONTINUED BUSINESS

28622 Wilson Drive – condemned house removed but there are still 2 or 3 out buildings that  
need to be removed.

54533 Beechwood Drive – nothing new to report

ORV - Supervisor Saunders wants input from the board and the public on whether we support or  
object to a county policy on ORV’s on the road. Chief Grice noted our roads are not designed for  
provide enough room for this type of use and he has significant safety concerns if they were on  
the road; several board members agreed with Chief Grice. Supervisor Saunders will go to the  
upcoming meeting at the CCRV and represent us not in favor of a county ordinance allowing  
ORV’s on the road.

Flag pole replacement –Supervisor Saunders and Trustee Glynn both viewed the flag pole  
recently purchased at Howard Township and agree it is acceptable for our needs. Supervisor  
Saunders will order the flag pole and the company will install it.

## NEW BUSINESS

Schedule a Budget workshop for 2020 – the budget workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday 1/22/20 at 12 noon.

Closing Policy – discussion of a closing policy for bad weather for the Township building during regularly scheduled office hours. We haven't needed one in the past and usually don't need to be closed unless the schools are closed and the roads are bad. Often the roads clear up by noon. There doesn't seem to be a need for closing policy at this time.

Insurance coverages for zoning liability and for sewer back up – discussion. The board is fine with the amount of zoning liability coverage already in the policy (previously approved by the board). Treasurer Kuriata will discuss the sewer back up amounts with the Sewer board at their meeting tomorrow (1/9/20) for more insight.

ILVFD – discussion of their concerns: they currently have 1 million in liability coverage and 1 million in umbrella coverage, our proposed contract requires them to have 1 million in liability and no less than 3 million in umbrella. SLVFD has already agreed with and signed a similar contract. The extra 2 million in umbrella coverage will cost ILVFD \$1,200.00.

Motion to keep the umbrella coverage in the contract as listed (the fire department must carry a minimum of \$3 million umbrella coverage). Motion by Trustee Glynn, seconded by Supervisor Saunders. Motion carried by voice vote.

Quarterly Budget review – presented by Clerk Behnke. We are still well within our budget for this year. Some of the line items do not reflect receipt of a reimbursement from other departments yet, but it is forthcoming (ie: training, etc).

**Motion** to reappoint Kaye Smith to a 3 year term on the Dowagiac District Library Board, to expire 12/21/22. Motion by Supervisor Saunders, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Motion** to extend the Winter Tax Bill deadline to March 2, 2020. Treasurer Kuriata explained this is a leap year and 2/29/20 is on a Saturday, thus the request for an extension. Motion by Clerk Behnke, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata. Motion carried via voice vote.

**Resolution 20-01** to adopt updated Poverty Exemption Guidelines, Asset Standards and Application pursuant to MCL 211.7u, for implementation by the Board of Review.

Motion by Trustee Glynn, seconded by Trustee Zuhl.

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Supervisor Saunders, Clerk Behnke, Treasurer Kuriata, Trustee Glynn, Trustee Zuhl

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

**Resolution 20-02** to adopt the 2020-2024 Silver Creek Township Community Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan as presented. Motion by Trustee Zuhl, seconded by Trustee Glynn.

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Clerk Behnke, Treasurer Kuriata, Trustee Glynn, Trustee Zuhl, Supervisor Saunders

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

**Motion** to renew the Special Use permit for parcel 14-130-016-009-00, for Margaret Zuhl. Supervisor Saunders explained this is an annual renewal to allow the mobile home on the property with another family home. Trustee Zuhl abstained because of family relation.

Motion by Supervisor Saunders, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata.

Roll call vote: Yes (4) Treasurer Kuriata, Trustee Glynn, Supervisor Saunders, Clerk Behnke

No (0)

Abstain (1) – Trustee Zuhl

Motion carried

**Motion** to approve Supervisor Saunders to sign the new contract with Indian Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Motion by Clerk Behnke, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Other business – none

Public comment - none

Meeting adjourned 7:54 pm.

Prepared by: Clerk Lorri Behnke 1/9/20

To be approved: 2/12/20.