

Town of Silver Lake  
OCRA Grant Public Hearing #2 Meeting Minutes (Community Center)  
Silver Lake Town Hall  
June 11, 2025  
7:00pm

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ROLL CALL: All present**  
**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

*Hugh Murfin, Nichole Taylor, Jean Weller, Tonya Conley*

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

*Jason McGlennen, Joey McNeal, John Conley*

**TOWN ATTORNEY**

*C. Austin Rovenstine*

**III. PUBLIC HEARING:** *Hugh Murfin, Council President, opened the public hearing at 7:00 pm.*

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS GRANT:** *Shannon McLeod, PPR Grant Services, explained that the town sought to apply for a grant to build a community center. This is the last of two Public Hearings before submitting the complete application to OCRA on June 20, 2025. The **11,000-plus** sq. ft. facility will include a gymnasium, exercise room, kitchenette, multipurpose room, and other amenities. The facility will host various events, workshops, and rental space for all ages. The town will ask for \$750,000.00 of the \$2,850,000.00 project and pursue other grants, including USDA. Shannon further explained that the town does not want to raise taxes on an already burdened populace, so the goal is to borrow (bond) as little as possible. Shannon stated that providing a USDA loan would spread the repayment over 30–40 years. The council was informed that “soft costs” are involved, totaling around \$300,000.00 for grant administration, attorney fees, applicable bond council fees, and financial advisor fees. The town is also pursuing funding from the K21 Health Foundation, USDA Rural Development, Orthopedic Retention Initiative, Kosciusko*

Community Foundation, and DEKKO Foundation. Once she had finished speaking, the floor was opened to citizens. Paperwork was signed.

**V. CITIZEN CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS:**

- a) **Doug Caudill** asked about the grants' amounts. Tonya told him we can ask for an amount, but it is up to the grant board if they would like to fund the entire application or if they come back and say we will give a certain amount but not the full scope. Doug also asked why such a big difference in the first planning amount and this one. Shannon explained that the building material was what drove the price up the first time.*
- b) **Rachel Miner** asked about the efficiency of the steel/wood structure. Tonya told her that the town had to look at the structure and systems during the sustainability study. We must be able to sustain the building without having high energy costs. Shannon stated that a dual system would control heat/air in certain building areas, keeping areas such as the gymnasium controlled. She also asked when the groundbreaking would be. Shannon explained the timeline and stated we are hoping for spring of 2026 at the latest but could be before. It depends on how fast funding moves.*
- c) **Joe Fugate** asked what would be done with the current office building if the office were moved. Tonya stated that it would be up to the council. Some in the audience asked for Tonya's opinion on what should be done. Tonya stated she would sell the building due to the cost. Hugh said he agreed with Tonya; however, it would depend on what the Marshal wanted to do. No other council member gave an opinion.*

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSING:**

*The public hearing was closed at 7:23 p.m. Nichole made the first motion, Jean seconded, and Hugh was all in favor; the motion was carried. Upon closure, the council approved Resolution 25-02-06 authorizing Shannon to submit the complete application by June 20, 2025. The resolution says they will develop the matching funds required for OCRA's grant regulations. Nichole made the first motion to pass the resolution. Jean seconded her motion, Hugh made all in favor, the motion carried.*

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**HUGH MURFIN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

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**TONYA CONLEY, CLERK-TREASURER**

