

In this issue

Township Election	1
Proposed Budget & Levy.....	2
Wastewater Finances.....	2
Heating/Home Assistance	2
Road Report.....	3
Wastewater Operations.....	3
New Driveway Access Policy	3
Recycling Trailer Update	3
Early Voting Info.....	4
Website Domain Name.....	4
2025 Hall Rental.....	4

March
2025



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE



Great Gray Owl - Photo thanks to Silver Creek resident Sherri Kelly.

Welcome to the *SILVER CREEK SOURCE*. This newsletter is also available on ttosc.org. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, send request to silvercreek@frontiernet.net.

Running for Town Supervisor

Supervisor Candidate - Incumbent Chuck Voss

It's been my pleasure to represent you on the Township Board for six years - three as Chairman. My areas of responsibility are the Castle Danger Wastewater System and the proposed Stewart River Wastewater Project. I also represent the Township on the North Shore Management Board. Our Board has been fiscally frugal yet able to maintain a six-month operating fund balance while keeping the levy increases well below the inflation rate. I have done my part to control the costs of maintaining our roads, facilities and sewer system. I look forward to three more years and ask for your vote.

Supervisor Candidate - Jody Reineccius

Hello, my name is Jody Reineccius. I have two grown children, Nicolas (26) and Natalie (20), former business owner, volunteer firefighter for 20 years, 18 as Assistant Chief, and former employee of the Township for 6 years where I obtained my Class C Sewer License. So I have a good grasp on how the Township functions. I would like to see the Township have positive growth but keep the back roads and slow country living for all who desire. Please get out and vote March 11th and I would appreciate your vote.

Treasurer Candidate - Shelly Peterson – See next page.

Election & Annual Meeting–March 11th

Hope to See You There

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Polling Place hours will be 12 noon to 8 p.m., for the following:

One (1) Supervisor.....3-year term

One (1) Treasurer..... 2-year term

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road. The Board of Canvass will meet on the same day, following the Annual Meeting and counting of the ballots (approximately 8:45 p.m.) to certify the official election results.

Financial Recap of Last Year

2024 Recap – 12% Under Budget

In 2024, Silver Creek spent 12% less than planned. Specifically, the Town spent \$556,721 on Town services after budgeting \$632,350.

Proposed 2026 Budget & Levy

2026 *Proposed* Budget

In planning for next year, the Board is proposing less than 1% increase in the budget as shown below.

2026 *Proposed* Levy

The levy is the amount to be collected via your property taxes. The 2026 proposed \$475,000 levy is a 4% increase over this year. 2026 marks the end of the special levy in the “Building” fund for use in either refurbishing or tearing down the Historic Hall. Come to the Annual Meeting to vote on this levy.

BUDGET	*Proposed* 2026	2025
General	\$115,250	\$112,200
Road & Bridge	\$364,500	\$358,500
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Buildings	\$21,100	\$39,100
Fire	\$50,000	\$45,000
Cemetery	\$12,000	\$10,500
General Debt Service	\$56,000	\$56,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$638,850	\$641,300
LEVY	*Proposed* 2026	2025
General	\$55,000	\$50,000
Road & Bridge	\$290,000	\$290,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Buildings	\$5,000	\$25,000
Fire	\$40,000	\$30,000
Cemetery	\$10,000	\$11,000
General Debt Service	\$55,000	\$30,000
TOTAL LEVY	\$475,000	\$456,000
Projected “Other” Income – Taconite, Gas Tax etc.	\$137,400	\$134,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$612,400	\$590,000

Do You Need Help?

Heating Assistance

The Minnesota Energy Assistance Program has information online at [Energy Assistance Program / Minnesota Department of Commerce - Energy](#) or call **218-735-6839** for the AEOA who administrate this program in our region.

Home Improvement Assistance

Loans and grants are available for low-income homeowners to make necessary repairs to remove a health or safety hazard or make the home more accessible. Go to our website www.silvercreekmnlakeco.gov News and Notices tab for more Information or call **218-305-3601**.

Board of Supervisor Duties

Wide Ranging Responsibilities

The Town Board has a wide set of responsibilities, and Supervisors are not paid by the hour or the amount of headache. Here are some things they do:

- Calculate the cost for services including road safety, fire and rescue, sewer system maintenance, elections, building and vehicle maintenance and cemetery.
- Calculate and propose the property taxes to be collected for the services above.
- Oversee Town staff, handling hiring or terminations.
- Attend 2-3 meetings a month in which they must ensure their decisions comply with County, State and Federal law.
- Hear and respond to the complaints of the public.
- Agree not to speak to the other Supervisors outside of the meetings to comply with “Open Meeting Law”.

Wastewater Finances

2024 Recap – On Target

The Castle Danger Wastewater system is financed by its users, with expenses covered by user fees (rates) and new connection assessments. Operating costs came in at \$177,331 compared to budget plan of \$177,000.

Funds Saved for Infrastructure Replacement

The Wastewater Enterprise ended 2024 with \$194,833 on hand. These funds are planned to cover infrastructure replacements needed by the 25-year-old system. Specifically, new pumps in Lift Station No. 1 are planned. The backup generators are also old, and many times repaired. And expensive dredging of treatment ponds may be needed.

Sewer Rate Hearing April 10

Wastewater customers are encouraged to attend the Rate Hearing to learn more about the system’s finances and plans for the future as well as proposed rates for this year. The Hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road. Sewer users will receive notification of their proposed rate in the next few weeks.

Running for Treasurer

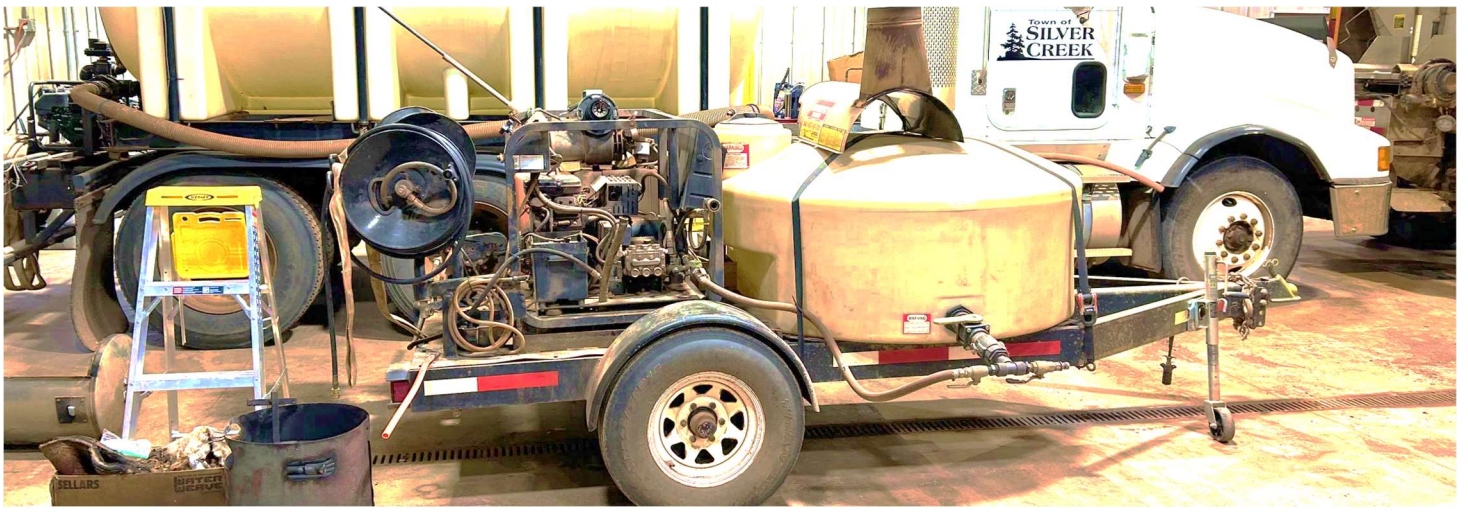
Incumbent Candidate Shelly Peterson

Peterson was appointed mid-term in June to fill a vacancy. She is now running unopposed for the two-year position. When we asked for comment, she said “I have been serving as Treasurer since June and would value the opportunity to continue.”

Stewart River Project

Still Hoping for State Bonding

Chairman Chuck Voss is currently working with Bollig Engineering to put together new letters of support for the next push for state bonding funding this year.



Road Report

Melt that Ice!

When not busy asking owl-watchers not to park on Silver Creek's skating rink, the Road crew had some time during the cold snap to work on repairs. Above is the steamer used to melt ice out of culverts. The problem in which 2-foot flames were shooting out of the steamer's heating coil has been repaired and the 25-year-old steamer is good as new. Vehicle maintenance included new tires installed on the sewer truck as well as new "off-road" tires installed onto the tandem axle for better performance on snow and ice. In the garage, lighting was repaired, and a new fan was installed.

Congratulations Paul Thompson!

Paul Thompson was named permanent Town Operations and Facilities Manager based upon his good work in the position as "Interim" held since July. Thompson has extensive experience with road maintenance and is meticulous in keeping both the roads and the equipment in good shape. He is assisted by part-timer Louie Larsen who brings years of road experience.

Wastewater Operations

Planned RV Park to Connect to System

A planned 49-place RV Park in the sewer district has applied to Lake County for a Conditional Use Permit. The property is located across Highway 61 from Gooseberry Falls State Park. It has been many years since a commercial account of this size has been connected. If approved, this project will add revenue to the system each month. Lake County will conduct a Hearing on the project. It is currently scheduled for March 17th.

Lift Station 1 Efficiency

After analyzing issues at Lift Station 1, Wastewater Operator Eric Appelwick tweaked the settings so that the pump comes on fewer times and runs longer. Pump starts have dropped from 22 to 9. This will reduce the wear and tear on the pump and allow for better performance. Best of all, this idea didn't cost a penny.

Grant Application for GPS Mapping

Currently old paper maps must be rolled out on the truck and a witching stick used to pinpoint the underground sewer lines. A DNR grant is being sought to pay for GPS mapping of the district's infrastructure.

New Driveway Access Policy

Policy Updated to Include New Situations

A driveway access is the portion of a driveway that connects to public roads and which lies in the right-of-way. If new driveways are not built properly or have the wrong culvert size, they can cause flooding or washouts on the Town's public roads.

Debate over Policy

The Board debated the level of regulation. The new policy requires a licensed contractor be used to install new approaches to help ensure a safe access, proper drainage, and to support local contractors. The Town will decide the type and size of culvert to be installed and will inspect before and afterwards but will not be doing culvert installations on new approaches.

Requests for Multiple Driveways

A limit of one driveway per every 330 feet of Town road frontage was added to the policy. Residents in need of an exception can appeal to the Board.

Recycling Trailer Update

Positive Response to the Trailer

Residents have been filling the new recycling trailer regularly and things have run very smoothly so far. According to Colleen Wallin, of Lake County Solid Waste, positive feedback has been received from several residents.

Reminder to Place Cardboard in the Proper Bin

Please place corrugated cardboard only in the bin labeled "Cardboard". Materials are sorted by hand when emptying the trailer and it is a lot of extra work when things are in the incorrect bin. Also, your name is likely on those Amazon boxes...

New Location Under Consideration

The Town is considering whether to move the recycling trailer to an area along Town Road next to the Salt/Sand shed to make it easier to monitor.

Agreement with Lake County Signed

The Silver Creek Board signed a five-year agreement with Lake County allowing the recycling trailer to be located at Silver Creek. In the agreement, the County is responsible for emptying the trailer and for sorting and disposing of the contents. Silver Creek is responsible for monitoring it and for disposing of any trash left outside the trailer.



*Early Bird *special**

Early Voting Open Now

Absentee and/or Early Voting is available for 30 days prior to the March 11th Election. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the best way to vote early will be to stop in person at the Clerk's Office at 1924 Town Road; or call 218-834-5255.

Town Website Change

New .gov Domain Name

A new Minnesota Law requires government websites to end with .gov to make it easier for people to find absentee voting information. The federal government regulates the ".gov" domain names and required Silver Creek to be differentiated from any other in the country by including the state and the county. Therefore, our initial hopes of a short and sweet website name were crushed. The new name is **silvercreekmnlakeco.gov** and is in place now. The old **ttosc.org** still works but it redirects to the new name. Town email addresses have not changed at this time.

2025 Hall Rental

Same Low Fees – Rental limited to May 15 to Oct 15

Because the Pavilion has no heat and the old inefficient furnace in the Historic Hall makes it cost prohibitive to rent in winter, these buildings may be rented from May 15-October 15 only. Stop by the office to reserve a date or view the rental agreement online.

Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson assisted this constituent after he hit the window of her Patio Door.

Thank-You to our Silver Creek Election Judges

A big Thank You to Phil Sogge, Michelle Backes-Fogelberg, Sara Swanson and Deb Cooter for agreeing to serve as Judges for the March 11 Township Election.

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
1924 TOWN RD
TWO HARBORS, MN 55616