

In this issue

Old Hall Decision	1
Special Meeting Dec 10	1
Hall Discussion continued	2
Wastewater Operations	2
GIS Mapping	2
Road Report.....	3
Bridge Load Rating.....	3
Stewart River Project.....	4
Recycling Trailer.....	4
Silver Creek Cemetery	4
Upcoming Meetings.....	4

Nov
2025



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

Old Hall Decision Made Refurbish with New Addition

On September 30th, the Board passed a Resolution to refurbish the main part of the Old Hall and to replace its addition. The Resolution passed upon votes by Supervisors Hull and Hoops with Supervisor Voss voting against. The scope of the new addition is yet to be determined. The transcript of this meeting can be found on the Town's website.

59% Supported Saving the Old Hall

Public input was collected at the September 6th Public Meeting and Open House where 24 of approximately 50 attendees stood and spoke. Another 75 others sent their opinions using the Comment Form on the Town's website. By the September 30 Meeting, 99 people had registered comments.

Public Comment Breakdown

- 59% favored saving and refurbishing the Hall
- 25% favored demolition (only)
- 13% favored building an entirely new Hall
- 8% were other comments or questions

How was the Decision Made?

The Board used a list of criteria to evaluate the options, giving each a score. Demolition scored poorly due to lack of public support, and failure to create a space for larger events and elections. The "New Building" option also scored low in public support and was considered too expensive. The "Minimal Work" Refurbishment option was rejected because the buildings' addition (restroom area) is beyond repair. The Board merged option 2 "New Addition" with Option 3 "Expanded Addition" in their consideration. A public working committee will need to partner with the architect on the design of the addition, but it will definitely hold new ADA compliant restrooms, potentially a catering kitchen and other new mechanicals. The scope will depend upon the budget and grant funds available.

Town of Silver Creek * 1924 Town Rd * Two Harbors, MN 55616

Office: 218-834-5255 * Email: silvercreek@frontiernet.net *

website: SILVERCREEKMNLAKECO.GOV



About 50 residents came to the September 6th Open House and Informational Hearing held on a chilly morning in the Old Hall

Please Join Us December 10

Community Working Committee Needed

At the September 30th Special Meeting, The Board of Supervisors agreed that community involvement and buy-in to the project is critical to its success. They envision a working committee to meet regularly on the project during the planning stages and beyond. Similar to Friends of Finland, this Committee will be tasked with ensuring community use by designing with community needs in mind. They will bring a variety of skills and viewpoints to the project. Anyone with any interest is invited to come to a special meeting Wednesday December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting room at 1924 Town Road. Even if you are not able to be part of a committee but just have ideas to pass along, or are able to help occasionally, you are encouraged to attend.

Old Town Hall Decision (continued from 1)

Financial Concerns Debated

The Board debated whether it was fiscally responsible to invest funds into the Old Hall. However, the Structural Engineer and the Bollig architect found that the original structure is sound and can be repaired. The Board also debated whether the plan would place an excessive financial burden on taxpayers. Any Levy increase for the project would be offset by the payoff of the building/loader loan at the end of 2026, by \$125,000 already levied for the project; and a statement from IRRRB that this is the type of project they would likely support with some funding. Additional grant funding will also be sought.

Community Involvement Required

In response to a concern raised by Supervisor Hoops, it was agreed that community involvement is critical and that supporters must participate. A working committee is being established and some type of committee or group will assist with running the facility once built, to market and rent it and do routine cleaning etc. The successful example of Friends of Finland will be studied to see what lessons can be learned. A group of three residents have already agreed to volunteer on behalf of the project.

Only the Pavilion to be Rented Next Summer Season

The Addition at the back of the Old Hall (where the restrooms are located) has deteriorated and has moisture damage. Because of that and because of the project, the Old Hall will not be rented out next summer season. However the Pavilion may still be rented with the use of portable biffies.

Castle Danger Wastewater Operations

System Running Well

All required maintenance this season has been completed. A dry year meant that irrigation out of clean water was completed early. Lift Stations experienced fewer problems this summer than prior years and the pumps have performed well since being adjusted by Eric Applewick of Advanced Utility Services. The adjustment has reduced the number of times that the pumps cycle on and off.

New Connections

This spring three new residents had expressed intentions to connect to the wastewater system. Two of these projects have completed as of press time. There is one other that will likely be connected next year. On the commercial side, the new RV park planned to be built across from Gooseberry Falls State Park was permitted but has not yet begun construction. The Town also has had inquiries on a new commercial account for a small resort.



GIS Mapping of Castle Danger System

NOAA DNR STAR GRANT Project 24-306-11F - Work Completed

The Castle Danger wastewater system supports the crucial purpose of protecting the waters of Lake Superior. Challenges can arise when detailed maps of infrastructure are unavailable and locating equipment is not capable of identifying key buried elements of the system. A Geographic Information System (GIS) map of the Castle Danger wastewater lines, pump stations and lifts has been created thanks to a grant received by the Town. Now, Town Operations staff can use a tablet while in the field to easily and quickly locate facilities. For example should there be a problem requiring a line to be excavated, the Town will no longer have to unroll old paper maps on the hood of the sewer truck. The mapping system allows layers of information to be saved and also works like an asset tracker. As of press time, training of Town Staff by Bollig Engineering is scheduled for next week. Field work is done but data is still being entered into the system. In addition to a laptop with cellular service for accessing the mapping in the field, the maps can also be accessed via internet from the office.

The Town of Silver Creek wishes to acknowledge and sincerely thank the following organizations for this grant funding: Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Office for Coastal Management at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Federal Award NA22NOS4190054.



Operations Assistant Louie Larsen heading out in the loader.



Bird's Eye View

Operations Manager Paul Thompson caught this picture. This year, the grader received new cutting blades and has been performing well.

Load Rating

Town Road Bridge in Strong Shape

Lake County had LHB inspect the Town Road Bridge over the Encampment River and they found that no load posting is required – the bridge can hold normal/legal highway loads! Not bad for an old timber structure. The Road crew also responded to the County's bridge inspection report and rearranged rip rap per requirements to maintain correct flow under the bridge.

Road Report

Staying After It...

The weather this summer made things difficult for road grading. Down time was used for maintenance on all rigs and ensuring that rigs were ready to go when the weather permitted. After a long stretch of dry weather, and washboard roads, the rain allowed for better grading conditions in August and September. Mowing was also completed in August with brushing in the right-of-way continuing. The Town's tractor with the boom mower and the skid steer with brush cutter have been performing well.

Laying the Groundwork

Normally the Town participates in Lake County's gravel crushing contract to obtain material for road repairs. Expected crushing that was discussed this spring, did not occur after all. Silver Creek is low on gravel, but has assurance from Lake County that some would be shared with Silver Creek in the event of an actual emergency such as a flood. Gravel will be purchased next year. Looking towards winter, a good supply of salt/sand is on hand.

Clearing Obstacles

West Castle Danger – ditching was done along most of West Castle Danger Road to improve drainage and road condition.

Beaver Dam -- A years-long problem with a beaver dam blockade of one of the Alger Grade culverts was resolved by an Animal Control Officer.

Cutting Edge Savings – A big sale at Zeigler resulted in a number of sets of cutting edges purchased at 50% off saving \$4,200 dollars.

New Vendor for Synthetic Oil – A new vendor was found to provide oil for \$2,000 less than was spent prior year.

In the Works

Fiber Optic along Burlington Road - The Town processed an application for Squan to install fiber optic line (for Frontier Communications) along Burlington Road this fall. A new Utility Installation Application put in place by the Board requires that a \$25,000 bond is in place to ensure that if the utility damages the road, there are funds to repair it.

Flood Bay Turnaround Extension - After a resident requested that the turnaround of this dead-end road be expanded, research was done showing that the road has already extended beyond its legal definition. This requires a legal process known as road alteration. Currently, the Town is waiting on a surveyor to be able to move to the next step on this project.

Stewart River Project

Presenting to the Bonding Committee Bus Tour

Supervisors Hull and Voss accompanied Laura Ostlie and Nathan Feist of Bollig Engineering to present before the Minnesota House of Representatives Capital Investment Committee "Bus Tour" members. This group of legislators is taking a bus tour around the state to view project needs prior to state bonding sessions. Supervisor Voss introduced the team, and then Bollig presented the nuts and bolts: stressing the noncompliance of 70% of systems in the project area; the inability to make MN DOT safety enhancements to Highway 61 until sewer is connected; the fact that the new Two Harbors facility was built with capacity for Stewart River; and the importance of Lake Superior as a destination. Supervisor Hull then went through the history with legislators asking them to be clear about what Silver Creek can do to be successful in achieving state bonding and noting that the first time we asked for funding 15 years ago, we were turned down while the state awarded more than we were asking for to the seal exhibit at the COMO Zoo!

Silver Creek Cemetery

Time to Pick up Flowers and Decorations

Please collect your decorations from the graves of loved ones in the cemetery in preparation for winter. Your assistance with this task is appreciated. Staff will pick up any items not collected prior to snowfall to avoid having them decompose into confetti, trash or metal that may damage a mowers the or plowing equipment.

Recycling Going Well

MPCA Visit

MPCA representatives visited the Recycling Trailer. Operations Manager Paul Thompson met with Colleen Wallin from Lake County Environmental Services and an MPCA official to show off the success of the program.

Your Patience Appreciated

The Lake County team responsible for hauling and emptying the Recycling Trailers reports that Silver Creek residents have been doing a great job with using the trailer appropriately. They ask your patience with emptying especially once the snow falls. Remember that items must be brought into the Recycling Center in Two Harbors if the trailer is full and that snow plowing around the trailer will likely be done after the roads, so please be patient.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Meetings – in Board Meeting Room

October 21 - Lake County Committee of the Whole held at Silver Creek at 6:00 p.m.

November 11 Committee of the Whole at 6:30

November 18 Regular Meeting at 6:30

December 9 Committee of the Whole at 6:30

December 10 Special Meeting on Old Hall Project at 6:30

December 16 Regular Meeting at 6:30

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

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