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June
2024



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

Your New Town Treasurer

Welcome Shelly Peterson

After recommendation by several Board members and based upon her strong book-keeping and computer experience, Shelly Peterson was appointed by the Board to finish out the current Treasurer's term and then will need to win election next March to continue.



Shelly Peterson

Voss Named Chairman

April Reorganization Meeting News

After the March Town Election, the Board meets in April to review roles. Supervisor Chuck Voss was named Chairman for this year. Voss has served 5 years.

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.

Jamie Pellman Steps Down

Will Serve as Deputy Treasurer

Treasurer Jamie Pellman has been depositing checks, balancing the bank account, and safeguarding Town funds since 2015 and has done a great job! Pellman will no longer be serving as Treasurer but has agreed to continue as Deputy Treasurer. Her calm, consistent, easy-going manner will be missed. We want to thank her for her dedicated service and wish her well in her future endeavors. She will be training Peterson and as Deputy Treasurer will serve as Peterson's backup.

Township Election Results

Supervisor Hull Overcomes Write-In Challenge

On March 12, everyone was surprised to see so many vehicles rolling into the polling place given that Hull and Oftedahl were running unopposed for Supervisor and Clerk. At the end of the night, the Election Judges reported just how close the Supervisor race was! Incumbent Supervisor Greg Hull won by 7 votes. He received 66 votes and write-in candidate Phil Nightwine received 59! As a reminder, anyone can run for one of the Supervisor positions. The Filing period is early January each year. Contact the Clerk's Office for more information. If you ever wondered whether your vote counts – it does!

Clerk Oftedahl Re-elected

Alison Oftedahl received 99 votes and other write-in candidates received 30.

Thanks to the following Township Election Judges

Phil Sogge, Deb Cooter, Jan Brenaman and Katie Anderson served as Judges for the Town Election and counted all ballots. Head Judge Sogge informed the Annual Meeting attendees that each Judge counted the ballots to ensure that the close results of the Supervisor race were accurately recorded.

Annual Meeting Results

\$456,000 Levy Approved for 2025

Approximately 30 residents attended the March 12th Annual Meeting at which they voted to approve the 2025 budget and levy shown below. The levy is the amount to be collected via property taxes. As a reminder, the Wastewater System is not funded by the levy and its finances are not included in the chart below.

2025 PLANNED TOWN BUDGET	
	Amount
General	\$112,200
Road & Bridge	\$358,500
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$39,100
Fire	\$45,000
Cemetery	\$10,500
General Debt Service	\$56,000
TOTAL BUDGET	\$641,300
2025 LEVY	
	Amount
General	\$50,000
Road & Bridge	\$290,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$25,000
Fire	\$30,000
Cemetery	\$11,000
General Debt Service	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$456,000
Projected "Other" Income including Taconite and Gas Tax	\$134,000
TOWN TOTAL PLANNED INCOME	\$590,000



Silver Creek Cemetery

Thank You Mike Hoops

For the past twenty years Mike Hoops has taken his personal time to honor Silver Creek Veterans by placing flags at their graves, and by raising flags at dawn. His attentions to the Silver Creek Cemetery are greatly appreciated.

Investing in Trees

Four more new trees were planted by Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius. He also weeded the garden at the flag display and added flowers. The tree planting is part of an ongoing effort to replace dead and dying white pines in the cemetery.

Please No Plastic, Cloth or Glass

Visitors may not realize that Cemetery Regulations do not allow the placing of plastic or cloth flowers. The wind and the lawn mower over time tend to cause these items to turn into trash scattered across the cemetery. Please bring only real flowers or plants in pots or planters that can be picked up at the end of the season.

Stewart River Project

No State Funding Passed this Year

Bollig Engineering reported that that "the atmosphere (at the state legislature) was deeply poisoned with partisan politics that prevented a bill from coming together." With no state bonding bill, Stewart River's hopes lie with Federally sponsored funding. The application for these funds has been completed and Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar are sponsoring the Stewart River Wastewater Project request.

Mark Your Calendar

Meetings

You are welcome to attend the following meetings:

- June 18 – Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
- July 9 – Committee of the Whole Meeting 6:30 pm
- July 16 – Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
- August 6 – Committee of the Whole Meeting 6:30 pm
- August 20 – Reconvened Annual and Regular Meeting 6:30 pm.

Elections

- August 13 – Primary Election –determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November General election. Polls open 7 am to 8 pm at 1924 Town Rd.
- November 5th – General Election Polls open 7 am to 8 pm

Presidential Primary Recap

Costs of Small Election to be Reimbursed

The March 5th Presidential Primary ran smoothly and 177 of 879 pre-registered voters cast their votes in the Board Meeting Room. The State of Minnesota is offering partial reimbursement for the expense of conducting the Election. Silver Creek has applied for reimbursement of all eligible expenses. If granted, Silver Creek will receive \$1,255.



Silver Creek's Grader

Weekend Warrior

The Wizard of the Grader – Paul Thompson

Most of us hate potholes and we notice when they are fixed. But what you may not know is that correct road grading ensures drainage, prevents puddles, saves expensive Class 5 gravel from being swept into the ditches and ensures vehicle safety. Grading can only be done when the surface is right – damp, but not sopping wet. A grader operator must have good timing, and this can involve sacrifice. Town Operations Assistant Paul Thompson worked overtime during the Memorial Day holiday weekend and the weekend before that to get the roads smoothed out after the four-inch rain. A grader operator must be patient because the grader must be driven slowly and precisely in order to get good results. At the beginning of spring each stretch of road requires four passes across it. Work must be paused for anyone trying to use the road during the grading. An educated eye and a very precise hand on the controls is needed to ensure the tilt of blades is just right. Roads are not perfectly flat but are crowned to ensure that water can drain off. The end goal is 2-3 inches of gravel now spread evenly across the entire road.

Aging Road Grader

The Town's grader is a 1996 model with a fair bit of wear and tear. Only smaller repairs have been needed in recent years, but it did require \$40,000 in repairs in 2018. Both Thompson and Reineccius have worked to minimize the use of the grader in winter and to keep up with maintenance to prolong its life. The Town has been considering road groomers to try to determine whether they could be used for some road conditions or serve as a backup to the grader.



Baby geese at the wastewater treatment ponds

Bridge Update

Load Rating & Increased Inspection

The Town Road bridge over the Encampment River will now be inspected every year instead of every two years due to its age and condition. One of the abutments has had a slight rotation that is of concern. And a load rating is being done by LHB under a MN DOT state contract to determine how much weight can be safely driven across that bridge. Riprap needs to be added but is waiting for the right time of year to avoid hurting the trout.

Road Groomer

Under Consideration

Supervisors Hull and Voss suggested that Reineccius and Thompson take a look at a pull behind road-groomer after they saw it at the Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Meeting. This May, the vendor brought one of their smaller models up for a demo and test on Silver Creek clay. Unfortunately, when the day arrived, it was a muddy one. The test was conducted. Everyone agreed that the groomer is definitely not any kind of full replacement for the road grader. However, it may help with potholes. Currently no decisions have been made about purchasing one.

Planned Road Work

Culverts

Three culverts on Dogwood were identified as needing repair or replacement as well as one on Castle Danger Rd. Mowing and trimming of ditches will continue as needed. The Town can brush with the skidsteer and do roadside mowing with the tractor.

Castle Danger

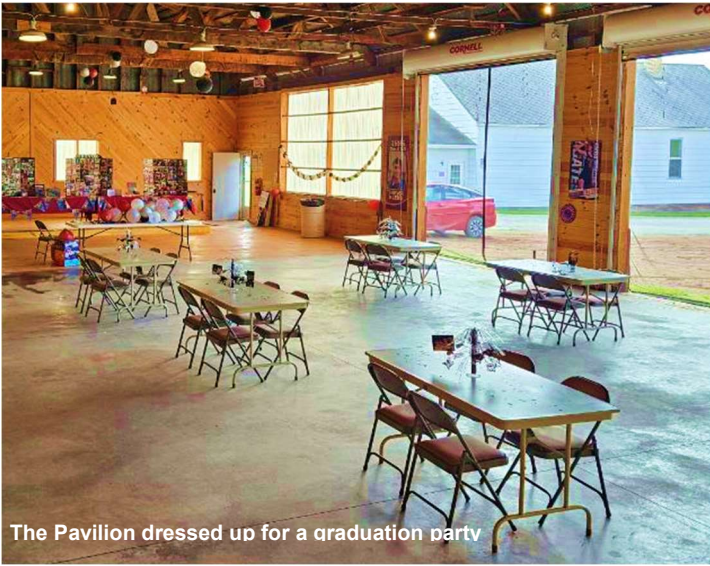
Wastewater News

Slight Increase in Residential Rates

The annual Rate Hearing was a quiet event with no complaints brought before the Board. Residential sewer fees were increased slightly from \$55 per month to \$59 per month. Commercial accounts are billed according to their metered water usage.

New Connections

Work began on two new sewer connections last fall. One of the homes will be completed mid-summer and all sewer work is done except for electrical connection. The other property is sewer ready, but the house has not yet been built. There are no other new connections pending at this time.



The Pavilion dressed up for a graduation party

Historic Hall & Pavilion

Proposed and Actual Uses

At the Annual Meeting, the fate of the historic buildings was discussed. Sara Preston suggested using the Historic Hall in the winter for Pickle Ball. A motion was made and carried to look into the idea. Reineccius and Hull inspected at the Hall and found several issues that make Pickleball unlikely to work there. Specifically, the lights are too low, the floor has issues, and the old hall is not heated due to a very old inefficient furnace. While the Pavilion might work better, it is currently used for winter storage. The Town is in the midst of a five-year levy to collect funds to either tear-down, restore or replace the Historic Hall. Maintaining it as an historic site has also been suggested and Supervisor Krech is looking into whether the Historical Society might maintain it. In the meantime, residents and visitors are able to rent these buildings and enjoy the space. This year rentals include a baby shower, a graduation party, the County Republican Party Banquet, two weddings, and summer Yoga classes every Wednesday night. The Board Meeting Room was also rented to announce a Silver Creek Forward Party Independent candidacy.

Six New Tables and New Screen Door

Large screens at the Pavilion were repaired and a new screen door was installed on the main entrance. Six new plastic tables were purchased to add to the fleet.

What happened with that movie?

Zeitgeist Theatre shows film ABROAD

The Silver Creek historic hall was rented in 2021 by the film crew of an independent film called "Abroad". It has finally been fully produced and was shown as part of the Minnesota Film Festival at Zeitgeist this April. The film is a suspense thriller. To view the trailer, type "Trailer of film Abroad" into the YouTube search function.

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