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March  
2026



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

# SILVER CREEK SOURCE

Town of Silver Creek \* 1924 Town Rd \* Two Harbors, MN 55616  
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***WHEREAS**, the project goals include ensuring that the facility meets the needs of the Town but also inspires increased use by the entire community;*

***WHEREAS**, ongoing community member involvement has been identified as the best way to ensure that it meets community needs and inspires increased use;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that a citizen working committee be established ... Excerpt from Resolution 2025-9*



## Restoration of the Old Town Hall

### Meet the New Restoration Committee

Greg Hull, Katie Anderson, Kyle Weideman, Jessica Peterson, Steve Thorne, Dale Moe, and Jamie MacFarlane were appointed to the new Hall Restoration Committee. Two alternates were also selected: Gary Reinke, and Sara Preston. If you have suggestions for the Old Hall or questions about the project, reach out to these friends and neighbors. See the next page for the full story.

## Election & Annual Mtg

Mark your calendar for March 10<sup>th</sup> – We 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 10, 2026. Polling Place hours will be 12 noon to 8 p.m., for the following:

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

One (1) Clerk ..... 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 date, following the Annual Meeting and counting of ballots (9:00 p.m.) to certify the official election results.

# Town Financial Recap

## Town comes in 7% Under Budget for 2025

Silver Creek spent 7% less than planned last year, and took in 7% more than anticipated. The Town received \$630,543 in taxes and Taconite funds, and spent \$597,893.

## Budget and Levy

### 2% Budget Increase Proposed

In planning for 2027, the Board is proposing a budget of \$678,700. Payoff of the Building and Loader loan in 2026 helps to offset other expected budget increases.

### 4% Levy Increase Proposed

The levy is the amount to be collected via your property taxes. The \$520,000 levy, proposed for 2027, is a 4% increase over 2026. The final levy is subject to the vote of Town citizens at the Annual Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>Proposed for 2027</u>	<u>This Year 2026</u>
General	\$114,250	\$115,250
Road & Bridge	\$360,750	\$364,500
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Buildings	\$21,700	\$14,600
Capital Projects	\$75,000	\$31,500
Fire	\$75,000	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$12,000	\$12,000
Debt Service	0	\$56,000
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$678,700</b>	<b>\$663,850</b>
<u>LEVY</u>	<u>Proposed for 2027</u>	<u>This Year 2026</u>
General	\$100,000	\$55,000
Road & Bridge	\$300,000	\$290,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000	\$20,000
Buildings	\$5,000	\$30,000
Capital Projects	\$25,000	
Fire	\$60,000	\$40,000
Cemetery	\$10,000	\$10,000
Debt Service	\$0	\$55,000
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>\$520,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>“Other” Income – Taconite, Gas Tax etc.</b>	<b>\$152,400</b>	<b>\$137,400</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$672,400</b>	<b>\$637,400</b>

## Wastewater Finances

### Sewer Rate Hearing set for April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The Castle Danger Wastewater system is financed by its users, with expenses covered by user fees (rates) and new connection assessments. In 2025, the system operated under budget. Wastewater customers are encouraged to attend the Rate Hearing to learn more about the system's finances and this year's proposed rates. The Hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road.

# Hall Restoration News

## Resolution Passed to Create Subcommittee

The Silver Creek Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2025-9 creating a subcommittee to work on the Hall Restoration Project and focus on development of community events. The subcommittee has been formed as part of town government, under the Board of Supervisors. Their decisions will be subject to Board approval. As part of Silver Creek Town government, their meetings will be posted and open to the public.

## Funding the Project

\$105,000 of the previously levied funds for the future of the Old Hall have been transferred into the Capital Projects Fund to be held for the project.

## Volunteers Met December 10

A meeting December 10<sup>th</sup> revealed that there were more people volunteering to serve on the new subcommittee than open seats. Interest cards revealed excellent candidates possessing a wide set of talents.

## Restoration Committee Organizational Meeting

The first committee meeting took place on January 27<sup>th</sup> to organize, and begin the process of pre-design that is being led by Bollig Engineering Architect Barbara Marks. Greg Hull will be the Chairman of the new committee and will serve as liaison between the Silver Creek Board and the Hall Restoration Committee. Silver Creek Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson was voted in as Secretary. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, and all meetings are open to the public. The schedule and meeting dates will be listed on our website [www.silvercreekmnlakeco.gov](http://www.silvercreekmnlakeco.gov) under Notices and News; or, call the office at 218-834-5255 for meeting dates.

# Town Election – Take Note!

## Who's on the Township Ballot?

Supervisor Mike Hoops, is running after being appointed to replace Scott Krech. Supervisor Hoops has many years of prior experience on the Board. Clerk Alison Oftedahl is running for re-election and has served since the end of 2017. Both candidates are running unopposed.

## Can I vote early?

Yes, early voting is available for the Township Election. It may be getting late by the time this newsletter reaches you, so please call right away to arrange early voting – 218-834-5255.

## What is Permanent Absentee Voting?

Minnesota voters can sign up for permanent absentee status. Refer to the County for more information. The Clerk's office sent out 28 absentee Township Election ballots this year after 18 being sent last year.

## Please thank our Silver Creek Election Judges

Phil Sogge, Debbie Cooter, Katie Anderson, and Mary Londborg – we appreciate you!



## *Road Report*

### **Mini Excavator Purchased**

The Town ended the year with excess balance in the Road fund, based in part upon the dry conditions and fewer snow events. With the extra budget, the Board gave Thompson the green light to purchase a used mini-excavator. A 2023 Bobcat with a ditching bucket and only 179 hours of use was chosen. This machine will be extremely useful with culverts, especially where Town roads meet driveways. With the planned purchase of gravel, there are a number of culverts in need of replacement, so the machine will come in very handy.

### **Flood Bay Road Alteration Planned**

A resident requested that the turnaround at the end of Flood Bay Road be expanded. It was then discovered that Flood Bay Road had already been lengthened beyond its legal definition. For these reasons, a road alteration is planned. The actual road will not be moved, but it's legal definition will be altered.

### **Silver Creek to Purchase Gravel Crushing this Year**

Last year the County did not end up doing any gravel crushing, and therefore Silver Creek did not receive material. However the Town has been informed that the County will go out for bids on crushing this year and Silver Creek can piggy-back on the contract.

### **Assistance to Beaver Bay**

Silver Creek provided assistance to the City of Beaver Bay after they experienced a water main break. Specifically, Silver Creek provided sand and hauling to Beaver Bay to help speed their recovery. The Town will be reimbursed for the materials.

## *New Town Facebook Page*

### **More Ways to get Town News**

Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson has set up a new Facebook page for the Town. This newsletter is not going away, but the Town is hoping to use Facebook along with the Town's website to get information out more quickly than once a quarter. A second goal is to reach more of the younger residents who may not read the newsletter. Additional goals include the ability to collect suggestions or ask for public comment. The Clerk's office is still working out the kinks with managing the site, so please be patient. Also be aware that there are two Silver Creek Townships in Minnesota.

## *Recreation Update*

### **Skating Rink gets New Net**

The Town crew has been working to improve the skating and hockey rink without breaking the bank. This year a new net was purchased and the rink has been widened. The future of the rink may depend partly on decisions made in the refurbishing of the Town Hall. If you appreciate this amenity, it would be good to let the Hall Restoration Committee know.

## *Wastewater Operations*

### **Lift Station 1 Pump Improvements**

Wastewater Operator Eric Appelwick made adjustments to the main lift station pumps that have greatly improved the performance. Whereas one year ago both pumps turned on (and then off) an average of 25 times per day, now they are only turning on an average of 5 times per day. This greatly reduces the wear and tear on the pumps and reduces expenses. Service calls to Lift Station 1 have also been greatly reduced.

### **Possible New Commercial Connections**

The Town has been informed of an application to re-open a small resort that has not operated for quite some time. If approved, this would be a new commercial account contributing to the wastewater system. The Town has not been informed whether the RV Campground that was permitted for the land across from Gooseberry Falls State Park will be built or not. The wastewater system can easily handle these potential new connections, and each new account assists in reducing the rates paid by everyone and ensuring continued economic solvency of the system.

# Stewart River Project - Push for State Bonding Funds



## Skraba and Hauschild Attend Silver Creek Meeting December 10

Pictured Left to Right: Supervisor Chuck Voss, State Representative Roger Skraba, Supervisor Mike Hoops, State Senator Grant Hauschild, Chairman Greg Hull and Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve.

## Thank you to Rep Skraba and Sen Hauschild

The Board hosted State Representative Roger Skraba and State Senator Grant Hauschild at the February Committee of the Whole Meeting in an effort to move the project forward. Skraba is a Republican member of the Bonding Committee and the Transportation Finance and Policy Committee among others and Hauschild is a Democrat on the Environment and Climate Committee among others. The meeting helped to clarify for everyone the benefits of this project. The project protects the environment by replacing current leaking septic systems; improves public safety by allowing MNDOT the ability to expand Highway 61 farther into the right-of-way, creates jobs in our area; opens development possibilities; and can leverage work already planned for the installation of the Gitchi Gami bike trail. Completing the wastewater line installation at the same time as the Bike Trail would save time and money. This is a great time for Township residents to send an email to one of these legislators, letting them know how important their support is to us. Hearing from the public can make a big difference. Email addresses:

[rep.roger.skraba@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.roger.skraba@house.mn.gov)

[sen.grant.hauschild@mnsenate.gov](mailto:sen.grant.hauschild@mnsenate.gov)

## SILVER CREEK SOURCE

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