TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
SNOWPLOW POLICY

1. Introduction

The Town of Silver Creek believes that it is in the best interest of the residents of the township to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on town roads. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The town will provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The town will use town employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service.

The Township does not assure a completely bare road. Users of the road system are reminded to exercise caution, slow down, and drive with care. The legal speed limit may not be possible at all times.

2. When will the town start snow or ice control operation?

The Town Operations & Facility Manager will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

a. snow accumulation of three inches or more,
b. drifting of snow that causes problems for travel,
c. icy conditions which seriously affect travel,
d. time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently, snowplowing operations may not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than three inches.

3. How snow will be plowed

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. Generally, the clearing of roads will consist of three phases: making the road passable, widening, and sanding, and cleaning up. The discharge shall go onto the adjoining right-of-way areas of the town road. In time of extreme snowfall, town roads will not always immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

4. Snow Removal

The Town Operations & Facilities Manager will determine when snow will be removed by truck from the area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snow plowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel and budget availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located so as to minimize environmental problems.

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5. Priorities and schedule for which roads will be plowed

The order in which town roads are plowed are generally based on the most efficient manner of getting to the roads based on distance and mileage, snow conditions, road function, traffic volume and importance to the welfare of the community. Recognizing a variety of conditions and situations, the Operations Manager at his discretion may alter the order in which roads are plowed. Whenever possible, two snowplows will be run as needed. One plow will remove snow from the following roads in generally the following order:

1. Alder Road
2. Trillium Road
3. Grimmer Road
4. Press Camp Road
5. Cedar Road
6. Burlington Road
7. Flood Bay Road
8. Aspen Road
9. Loop Road
10. Silver Creek Road
11. Cliff Point Road
12. Big Point Road
13. Valhalla Road

The other plow will remove snow from the following roads generally in the following order:

1. Town Road
2. West Castle Danger Road
3. Landfill Road
4. East Castle Danger Road
5. Clark Road
6. Dogwood Road
7. Balsam Road
8. East Alger Grade
9. Red Maple Lane
10. 32A (being minimum maintenance this road is not plowed except for first 25 feet or so to provide parking for cabin owners)

The town has an agreement with Lake County wherein Lake County will plow Silver Creek Town Roads - Beaver Dam Road and Marble Lake Road, and Town of Silver Creek will plow Lake County Roads - #106 and Bunker Hill Road.

6. Work schedule for snowplow operators

Snowplow operators will work 10-hour shifts. Because of budget and safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a 12-hour shift in any 16-hour period.

Operators will take 15-minute break every two hours with a half-hour meal break after four hours. After a 12-hour day, the operators will be replaced if additional qualified personnel are available.

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7. Weather conditions

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of township employees and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include severe cold, significant winds and limited visibility.

8. Use of sand, salt and other chemicals

The township will use sand, salt, and other chemicals (if at all) when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The township is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

9. Mailboxes and fences

Mailboxes and fences damaged during snow removal will be evaluated case by case. Only those mailboxes and fences that were properly located and installed in accordance with state laws, highway regulations or Minnesota Department of Transportation recommendations which were damaged by actual contact with township equipment will be repaired at township expense.

Approval Date _____

_____ _____

Chairman Greg Hull Supervisor Chuck Voss

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Supervisor Mike Hoops

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