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June
2022



Quarterly Newsletter of the Town of Silver Creek

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

Township Roads Escape the Worst of the Flooding

Welcome to the *SILVER CREEK SOURCE*. If you have ideas or would like to contribute a story, please reach out to Alison Oftedahl, Clerk at silvercreek@frontiernet.net or 834-5255.



Alger Grade Culvert Replacement

Flooded Roads

Who do you Call?

If the road is flooded or washed away, who should you call to make a report? If it's a Township Road, call 218-220-0003.

Township Roads

Aspen Road
Balsam Lane
Beaver Dam Road
Big Point Road
Burlington Road
Cedar Road
Clark Road
Cliff Point Road
Dogwood Road
East Alger Grade
East Castle Danger
Flood Bay Road
Grimmer Road
Loop Road
Marble Lake Road
North Marble Lake Road
Press Camp Road
Red Maple Lane
Silver Creek Road
Town Road
Trillium Road
Valhalla Road
West Castle Danger

Seeking "Road Watchers" to Help during Flooding Rain Events

Imagine being called out in the middle of the pitch-black night to drive every one of the 23 township roads looking through sheets of rain for down trees and flooded ditches. Which way to head out first? Inspecting all the roads is a time-consuming task. The road crew is hoping to get one resident from each road willing to be a "Road Watcher" and to call or text in during major rain events to report any flooding. Please call the office if you think you might be willing and able to serve as the township "Road Watcher" for your road. Let's get ahead of the next flood event.

2023 Levy Reduced

Supervisors Avoid Raising Taxes

In spite of 7% inflation, the Board worked hard to hold the budget and actually reduce the levy by \$10,000. Read the details on the next page explaining how this will be done.

Town Election Results

Supervisor Chuck Voss - 3 more years
Clerk Alison Oftedahl - 2 more years

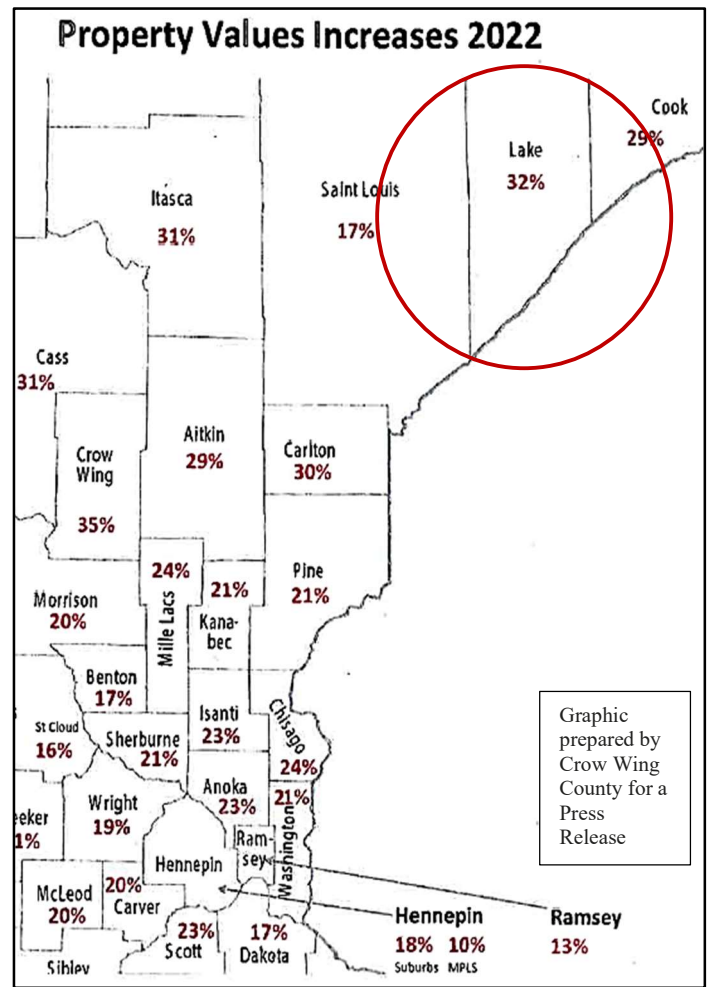
28 voters turned out for the March Election and Township Annual Meeting. Thank you to our Election Judges and to those who voted.

If it is a flooded or washed-out highway such as Highways 2, 3, or 61 call the Sheriff's Dispatch at 218-834-8385. For private roads, work with your contractor.

LBAE Held in May

Lake County Value Increase One of Highest in the State

At the Silver Creek Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, Lake County Assessors presented the graphic shown at the right to demonstrate how much the estimated market value went up across Minnesota. **Notice that Lake County leads the increases with a whopping 32% average increase.** Attendees at the Hearing were reminded that the valuation is not the same as the taxes. Taxes come from the levies (County and Township). About thirteen taxpayers attended the Board of Appeal and Equalization to make their appeal, and there were five more individuals who appealed by mail. Those who attended and had their request denied have the right to appeal to the County on June 13th.



Approved 2023 Levy of \$400,000

2023 Budget & Levy Approved at Annual Meeting

The budget and levy below were approved by attendees of the Annual Meeting in March. Positive Fund balance and Federal ARPA funds add to the levied amount to cover the budget.

BUDGET	2023	2022
General	\$84,500	\$73,000
Road & Bridge	\$313,000	\$314,500
Road	\$20,000	\$20,000
Enhancement		
Building	\$38,750	\$37,750
Fire	\$45,000	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$10,500	\$10,500
General Debt	\$56,000	\$56,000
Service		
TOTAL BUDGET	\$567,750	\$561,750
LEVY	2023	2022
General	\$30,000	\$42,500
Road & Bridge	\$249,000	\$246,500
Road	\$20,000	\$20,000
Enhancement		
Building	\$25,000	\$25,000
Fire	\$45,000	\$45,000
Cemetery	\$2,500	\$2,500
General Debt	\$28,500	\$28,500
Service		
TOTAL LEVY	\$400,000	\$410,000
Projected other	95,450	\$116,150
Income including Taconite and Gas Tax		
TOWN TOTAL INCOME	495,450	\$526,150

Note: Projected income is an estimate. A conservative estimate of Taconite tax was used in the planning process.

Stewart River Project Update

Federally Directed Funding Sought (Again)

The Town is again applying for Congressionally Directed Funding under the Biden Infrastructure funding. Last year's application did not result in receiving funding.



New Pickup – Enjoy the Ride

Town Pickup replaced thanks to Rescue Plan funds

The new pickup is a 2021 Dodge RAM 4500 with a 6.7-liter Cummins turbo diesel engine with a trailering capacity of 35,220 lbs. A dump box and a plow were added. Jessie Anderson, Silver Creek resident, made the door decals. The truck's tank can be filled at the town shop's diesel pump, saving payroll hours and mileage previously spent driving in for gas. The old truck will be sold. An initial request for sealed bids did not result in an acceptable offer. The Board would like to get fair value for it.

Road Repairs

Frozen Culverts Caused Damage on Several Roads

The snow over mud experienced every week of April was very tough on the roads. Some culverts could not be found or kept re-freezing after being opened. This led to water backing up in the ditches. The rain event on May 12th didn't help. On Clark Road, a couple of culverts disintegrated and had to be replaced (shown front page and at lower right). Some additional repairs will be needed on Clark Road. On Town Road at Bob Skogen's driveway, a lake had formed. After excavation, and clearing the culverts, the right-of-way had to be repaired and new riprap applied.



Town Road Repairs

Tandem Axle Truck Update

Still Waiting

It has been over a year since the Town placed an order for a tandem axle dump and plow truck. We are six months past the original promised delivery date. Supply chain issues are being blamed for the delays. The truck will be paid over the course of seven years to keep payments manageable.

Hwy 3 Closed

After May 12 Flood Damage

The County was forced to close Highway 3 at the southern end due to damage sustained at the Silver Creek Tributary in the May 12th flooding rain event.



Clark Road Repairs

Castle Danger Wastewater News

Equipment Purchased for Planned Summer Projects

A positive fund balance in the Sewer Enterprise has enabled the purchase of pumps and replacement equipment. With supply chain issues, it is important to have a few new pumps on hand so that any failures at residences can be resolved quickly. Three tanks were also purchased based upon new homes being built in the Castle Danger District. These tanks were ordered early in the spring to ensure that they are ready for the short summer construction season.

Rate Hearing

There were no appeals or complaints brought to the 2022 Rate Hearing held in April. The Board voted to hold the monthly sewer rate for residences to \$55 per month. They voted to slightly increase the commercial rate from \$15.67 to \$16 per thousand gallons, setting each account according to prior years usage in gallons. A decrease in usage by Gooseberry Falls State Park last year resulted in a slight increase in the share of costs borne by the other commercial accounts.

Which way to the Party?



Silver Creek Moose spotted on Highway 3 by Jody Reineccius.

Summer Events

In the Pavilion & Historic Hall

Rentals for the upcoming season include 1 birthday party, 2 graduation parties, 1 class reunion, Yoga on Wednesday nights, and 4 days of Ukulele Festival. There are still many summer weekends open – call the Clerk to schedule. This winter did not see any events, but the Pavilion was used for winter storage of 9 boats and campers.

Primary Election 8/9

Vote on August 9

Come to 1924 Town Road any time between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on August 9th to exercise your right to vote. The Town would like to thank our Silver Creek Election Judges for making the Election possible. We appreciate you!

Thank you to Dutton Foster for editing this newsletter.

SILVER CREEK SOURCE

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