

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2025

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Silver Creek was held in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, Two Harbors, Minnesota, on the 11th day of March 2025.

Present:

Chuck Voss	Greg Hull	Scott Krech	Alison Oftedahl
Jody Reineccius	Shelly Peterson	Katie Anderson	Rich Sve
Shele Hull	Bill Peterson	Jody Reineccius	John Bathke
Mary Londborg	Clay Olson	Val Johnson	Kyle Weideman
Jon Fogelberg	Dan Overby	Denise Bohrer	Gary Reinke
Dwight Lind	Ben Fleming	Jessica Peterson	

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Clerk Alison Oftedahl, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rich Sve agreed to preside as Moderator after nomination by Jon Fogelberg, second by Kyle Weideman, and unanimous Yea vote. Moderator Sve read the agenda.

Last year's Annual Meeting minutes were provided to all attendees. Motion Dwight Lind, second Greg Hull to approve last year's minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Shelly Peterson presented her report showing an end of year bank balance of \$769,740.44. The report was accepted as presented, upon motion Dan Overby, second Scott Krech and unanimous Yea vote.

The next Annual Meeting was set for Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 8:15 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road upon motion by Dwight Lind, second Val Johnson and unanimous Yea vote.

REPORTS:

Chairman's Annual Report

Chairman Chuck Voss reported on a good year for the Township, due to dedicated work and prudent spending by Paul, Louie, Alison, and Katie. The required work was done, and public concerns and requests were met. 2024 included 4 elections, welcome of new Treasurer Shelly Peterson, and a five-year agreement with Lake County for a new recycling trailer in Silver Creek. The Chairman then had Supervisor Hull report on the proposed cell tower on Alger Grade. Hull described that project as "dead".

Castle Danger Wastewater Report

Chairman Chuck Voss reported that the Castle Danger Sanitary District is being maintained well and has resulted in a positive fund balance of \$194,833. We will be doing the first major update to the system since its inception. Two new pumps in Lift Station #1 will be installed. With this update and future infrastructure needed of the 25-year-old system, a rate increase has been proposed this year. Attendees were reminded that the wastewater system operates as a separate enterprise and is wholly funded by users of the system. No part of the Township levy goes towards this system. A planned new RV Park was discussed. Voss explained that the rate increase is not due to the RV Park, but rather due to the age of the system and a need for replacement pumps and generators, a new manhole at Lift Station 1, and expensive dredging of the three treatment ponds.

Stewart River Project Report

Chairman Voss reported that the project is seeking funding in the 2025 Minnesota Legislative Session. The Town is also applying for 2025 Congressionally Directed Federal Funding. He said the Town has tried unsuccessfully for 14 years to obtain funding and that we are still banging on doors.

Report on Personnel

Supervisor Hull reported that in mid-summer Jody Reineccius left the Township to pursue other opportunities. Paul Thompson stepped up and took his position. Louie Larson had already been hired as part-time on-call Equipment Operator. An outside firm was retained for licensed supervision of the sewer system. So the net result was reduction of manpower requirements. Contractors may be used from time to time for hauling on larger projects, but we currently have one full-time and one-part employee and have been getting everything done.

Report on Facilities

Supervisor Scott Krech discussed Facilities and especially the Historic Hall. He said that the 5-year \$25,000 levy for the Historic Hall has ended, which leaves us with the question of what are we going to do? There is \$125,000 in that fund. He asked the attendees whether we have enough support for the Hall. He said that we rent the Hall but don't make a lot of money off it. Questions were raised about the current state of the building, and the potential cost of repairs or demolition. Krech discussed the difficulty in obtaining contractor quotes. Hull pointed out the asbestos shingles, the lead paint, the bouncy floor, and the lack of foundation. A number of attendees were interested in saving and fixing up the Historic Hall. After back and forth, Moderator Sve suggested that cost estimates be presented at a special meeting before asking the public to decide what they want. The group agreed that attendees should be notified by mail and that September would be a good time to hold the meeting. Hull reminded everyone that the final decision must be made by the Board.

Report on Town Operations

Operations Manager Paul Thompson thanked everyone and said that although it was a sometimes challenging and chaotic year, they were able to complete a couple of larger projects and to put in half a dozen culverts that needed replacing as well as applying gravel to problem areas. Four new trees were planted in the cemetery and 8 burials were completed. 12 sessions of yoga and five other events were run in the Hall and Pavilion. Looking forward, he noted that crushed gravel is being purchased and that there are miles of ditching to do as well as multiple driveway pipes in need of replacement. He also has plans to move the Recycling Trailer closer to the Town garage for better monitoring and maintenance. He said that all comments are appreciated and invited attendees to take one of his business cards.

BUDGET & LEVY

Budget

Chairman Voss reported that the Town ended the year 12% under budget last year, but he qualified it, saying that the surplus can be accounted for by a \$25,000 tractor repair that will be paid in 2025. He then presented the 2026 budget included below.

<u>Budget:</u>	<u>2026</u>
General	\$115,250
Road & Bridge	\$364,500
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Buildings	\$21,100
Fire	\$50,000
Cemetery	\$12,500
General Debt Service	\$56,000
TOWN TOTAL	\$638,850

Levy

Voss then presented the Board's proposed 2026 levy totaling \$475,000, which is a 4% increase over 2025. After discussion, a motion by Denise Bohrer to re-instate for five more years, the \$25,000 per year levy in the Building Fund was seconded by Shele Hull. In a vote, this motion carried. This changed the levy total to \$500,000 – a 10% increase over 2025. Then, the revised levy (included below) was approved upon motion John Bathke, second Denise Bohrer and unanimous Yea vote.

<u>Levy:</u>	<u>2026</u>
General	\$55,000
Road & Bridge	\$290,000
Road Enhancement	\$20,000
Building	\$30,000
Fire	\$40,000
Cemetery	\$10,000
General Debt Service	\$55,000
TOWN TOTAL LEVY	\$500,000
Other expected Income	\$134,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$590,000

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ELECTION RESULTS

Head Election Judge Phil Sogge presented the preliminary uncanvassed results. In the Supervisor race, candidate Chuck Voss received 111 votes and candidate Jody Reineccius received 40 votes, and there was 1 write-in. In the Treasurer race, Shelly Peterson received 139 votes, there were 3 write-ins, and 10 ballots were blank or defective.

There being no further business, the meeting was recessed at 9:52 p.m. upon motion Greg Hull, second Dwight Lind and unanimous Yea vote. This meeting will be reconvened on August 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at 1924 Town Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Oftedahl, Clerk

Rich Sve, Moderator