



SYLVAN TOWNSHIP

TOWN ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2019

(Recorded for Transcription Purposes Only)

Called to Order: Clerk/Treasurer, Faith Broberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Election of Moderator from the Community:

Yvette Adelman-Dullinger nominated Greg Bennett, seconded by Dave Johnson. As there weren't any more nominations, Yvette Adelman-Dullinger **moved to appoint Greg Bennett as the moderator**, seconded by Arlene Schmit and the motion carried.

Introduction of Town Board of Supervisors: Chair and Weed Inspector, Greg Booth, Planning Commission & Fire Liaison, Yvette Adelman-Dullinger, Co-Road Supervisors, Greg Bennett, Arlene Schmit and John Wuff, who is not present tonight. Arlene Schmit is the Pillager Park Representative for Sylvan Township.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report –

2018 Annual Town Meeting Minutes –Arlene Schmit **moved to approve the minutes of 03-13-2018**, seconded by Ron Barnett and the motion carried.

2018 Audit Report - copies of the 2018 Audit Report, conducted by CliftonLarsonAllen for the year end December 2018 are on the sign-in table for residents to review.

Town Status Reports:

Fire Association – report given by Yvette Adelman-Dullinger. The number of calls this year is down to 260 compared to 288 at the end of 2017.

The Association needed to purchase a different tender/pumper to replace the pumper which became inoperable.

The Association will be advertising for more firefighters. We need about 4 – 5 more firefighters.

The Association has a new “Memorial Firefighter Flag Pole” at station #1 that was purchased with funds from a memorial that was set up in honor of David A. Vieths who had passed away last year. David had served on the fire department for 29 years.

Sylvan Township's Planning Commission (PC) Report -

Dave Johnson, PC Chair gave this report. His report is in the Annual Meeting Packet but he highlighted a few items and took questions. The Township continues to work with Cass County Planning and Zoning on permits that require a variance. The PC continues to work with commercial areas in the Township.

The Planning Commission and Town Board of Supervisors are planning a joint meeting in July and will be discussing Vacation Rentals by Owner – short term rentals which are gaining in popularity.

Sylvan Lake Park – the first trail (2500 feet) been roughed in. Dave encouraged resident to go out to the park (when the snow is gone) to see what has been done. The Township is working with the DNR to construct a small parking lot and a carry-in-canoe, paddle board, kayak launching in the southern portion of the park.

The PC is also hosting an educational seminar to help enhance the water quality in the Township. This will be held on Saturday, April 27th, 2019 from 10:00 AM to Noon at the Townhall.

Another thing to watch for is the PC is planning on having a lecture series “History in YOUR backyard. The lectures will highlight historical moments in Sylvan, Rosing, Fairview and May Townships and the cities of East Gull Lake and the Pillager area.

Pillager Lake Park Report – Sylvan’s Liaison to the Park is Arlene Schmit. The Park Board is made up of a representative from the City of Pillager, and the Townships of May, Fairview and Sylvan. They meet 4-5 times a year. The Park budget is funded by each government entity contributing \$2,000/each. This last year electricity was put in at the pavilions. The Park Board is working at having a park host to help maintain the Park which seems to help with keeping vandalism down.

Road Report – Greg Bennett Co-Road Supervisor gave this report. Some of the road work that was done this last year include:

- Cut & Patch work on 43rd Avenue SW and West Sylvan Drive SW.
- Crack Sealing.
- Shouldering and brushing.
- Calcium Chloride on gravel roads to cut down on the dust.
- 134th Street was taken over by the Township.
- A culvert in Bigwater was cleaned out 3 due to beaver damage.
- No new roads were paved this last year.
- Camp Jim Road has been designed for paving but this project was put on hold as there were some concerns by the residents.

The Township is planning on building a sand/salt shed 22’x30’ to protect the sand/salt pile. There was discussion on the possibility of purchasing some property from the railroad. Roland Anderson has the name and phone number for the individual at BNSF that could be contacted about such a purchase.

West Gull River Road SW – some of the residents on this road have petitioned the Board to have this intersection lit up more for safety reasons. The road does not qualify for having MNDOT install a light there. There is a power pole already there that a light could be added. The cost for installing a light would be between \$500. – \$1000.00 using the existing pole. The cost of electricity would be about \$180/year. A new break away pole would cost around \$4,500.00. There was discussion on the possibility of putting a light on 24th Avenue SW and State Highway 210. It was suggested that maybe we could try one or two such lights and see how they work. It was mentioned that down lighting is what the Township recommends and a LED light.

Snow Plowing – the Town Board has received numerous comments on how great the plowing has been this year.

Items for Consideration -

Cass County Historical Society – a letter was received from the Historical Society regarding the Township renewing their membership to help fund their work. Dave Johnson explained how helpful the Historic Society was in helping him find information on the History Series the Planning Commission is planning on scheduling.

Dave Johnson **moved to donate \$150.00**, seconded by Roland Anderson and the motion carried.

Cass County Ag Society (Pillager Fair Board) – Jennifer Paananen gave this report. The Park Board works with the Lions on providing winter coats for kids. This is a growing need. Jennifer mentioned that any non-profit organization that wants to have a booth at the fair to raise money for their organization can do so without paying for space. Arlene Schmit suggested that they have the parade later in the afternoon which might attract more people into staying longer at the fair. Jennifer mentioned that Sue VanHal is working on “History of the Pillager Area” in one of the buildings at the fairgrounds.

Arlene Schmit **moved to donate \$4000.00 to the Pillager Fair Board**, seconded by Yvette Adelman-Dullinger and the motion carried.

Lakes Area Dive Team – the Dive Team sent an email requesting a donation and gave a list of how they help the Sheriff’s Departments. They are in the process of purchasing more dry suits and full face masks which is going to cost over \$10,000. They are also focusing on Invasive Aquatic species training and investigation. Roland Anderson **moved to donate \$1,000.00 to the Lakes Area Dive Team**, seconded by Ron Barnett and the motion carried.

Setting Tax Levies for 2020

General Fund - \$134,500 --- Yvette Adelman-Dullinger **moved to set the General Fund for 2020 at \$134,500**, seconded by Vickie Kettlewell. Greg Booth pointed out that this is about a 3% increase for 2020. The General Fund has remained the same for a couple of years and this 3% reflects a cost-of-living increase for salaries and the operating costs for the Town Hall. The question was called and the motion carried.

Road & Bridge Fund - \$511,700 --- Plus \$142,964 Bond #2 for a total of \$654,664. Dave Johnson **moved to set the Road & Bridge fun at \$654,664**, seconded by Yvette Adelman-Dullinger. Maintaining the roads with crack sealing, brushing and the increase in snow removal has cost more and also some culverts are going to need replacing. The question was called and the motion carried.

Fire Fund --- \$84,960 - Yvette Adelman-Dullinger **moved to approve the Fire Fund Levy at \$84,960**, seconded by Vicki Kettlewell. Yvette explained that this is an 18% increase in the Fire Budget. There are 22 radios that are going to be unsupported at the end of this year and the Fire Department will need to replace them @ about \$3,000/each. OSHA is cracking down on turnout gear and aren’t giving warnings and fining Fire Departments. Greg Ringler, Fire Chief, is putting some money aside for purchasing turnout gear. Yvette explained how the Fire Association is giving East Gull Lake some options regarding costs for obtaining Fire Protection from the Pillager Fire Department.

A Straight \$5,000 added each year over a 5 years period.

Or a 7% increase over 3 years.

Or as the Association’s assessments increase so would EGL.

The goal is to get EGL up to \$70,000 a year.

The question was called for setting the Fire Fund Levy and the motion carried.

Setting the 2020 Annual Meeting – Vicki Kettlewell **moved to set the 2020 Annual Meeting for Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM**, seconded by Arlene Schmit and the motion carried.

Any Other Business -

There was none.

Adjournment – Arlene Schmit **moved to adjourn the meeting**, seconded by Ron Barnett and the motion carried with the meeting adjourning at 8:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Faith C. Broberg, Clerk/Treasurer

Greg Bennett, Moderator