

# SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



**March 9, 2021 Annual Town Meeting will be held at the  
Sylvan Town Hall at 7pm**



## Chairman's Notes

With all the changes we've experienced in the past year, one thing hasn't changed: The Township Annual Meeting is still on the second Tuesday of March. It's still the best way for Township residents to directly participate in local government. The voting residents set the levy for the next year, based on a budget developed by your Town Board. You decide the bottom line. No party politics here, just grass-roots government. We hope you can join in the meeting, whether in person or virtually. Space will be limited so we can keep everyone safe and comfortable.

In 2020, Sylvan Township received some substantial funds from the COVID-19 relief fund. Some of the money went to increased expenses for the Township due to the pandemic. A portion was donated to the Pillager Area Fire and Rescue, some was donated to local non-profits that serve our Township, and some was used to expand broadband service in part of the Township that was underserved. The broadband expansion was accomplished in cooperation with Consolidated Telephone Company (CTC), the local communications cooperative. CTC also provided free wi-fi service at the Town Hall.

Sylvan Township is acting as the coordinator for a regional grant that will bring together archaeological research in the Sentinel Landscape, the region in and around Camp Ripley. The work will start this year. The Township also has been working on park projects and funding (see other news in this edition).

We start our new Township year with a new Board member, Bob Johnson, and wish our colleague John Wulff the best as he leaves the Board. John brought a lot of insight and ideas to the Township, especially on road issues.

Greg Booth

## Important Dates

**March 9, 2021**  
Annual Town Meeting  
7:00 PM Town Hall  
Alternative date  
March 16, 2021

**April 4, 2021**  
Easter  
Town Hall Closed  
Monday, April 5, 2021

**April 19, 2021**  
Board of Equalization:  
10:00 AM Town Hall

## MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Board Meets:  
1st & 3rd Thursdays  
Except December

Planning Commission  
Meets:  
2nd Thursdays

Pillager Lake Park  
Advisory Board Meets:  
As required

Fire Association Meets  
First Monday of each  
month - 7:00 pm at  
Pillager Fire Hall

Board and PC Meetings:  
November 1st - March  
31st starts at 6:30 pm.  
April 1st- October 31st  
starts at 7:00 pm held at  
Sylvan Town Hall.

**Sylvan Town Hall**  
(218) 746-3652  
Hours: Mon.-Fri.  
8:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Email us at:  
[info@sylvantwp.com](mailto:info@sylvantwp.com)  
Website:  
[www.sylvantwp.com](http://www.sylvantwp.com)

For address changes,  
contact Cass County at  
218-547-7260

**Town Board:**  
**Greg Booth:** Chair,  
**Greg Bennett:** Vice  
Chair, PC Liaison  
**Bob Johnson:**  
Co-Road & Driveway  
Fire  
**Arlene Schmit**  
Lead Co-Road & Drive-  
way, Park  
**Yvette Dullinger:**  
Co-Road & Driveway  
Weeds

### Sylvan Lake Park Update

Progress continued in the park in 2020 despite the arrival of COVID 19. In fact the park was a great place to work and maintain social distancing. Our park committee met in spring of 2020 and came to the consensus that we should concentrate on the restoration of the pit area. Since the restoration would take the greatest amount of time to mature it was decided to get started there and go back to additional trails in 2021.

In 2020 we seeded the steep slope on the lakeside of the pit using a contractor to hydro seed that area in order to seed without disruption of the soil which in that area was thin topsoil and rocky sand soil. Doucette's Landscaping and Contracting of Little Falls did the hydro seeding. ( The contractor chose to not bill the Township for the work). Prior to seeding, we engaged a group of volunteers who burned off the weeds and grasses that covered the slope.

Next we turned our attention to the tree planting on the east side of the pit. Again volunteers were used for the planting. This area, however was part of the old pit bottom and it had been compacted to the point that we were not able to dig in the trees without first using a skid steer with a single fork to breakup the soil first. (Anderson Brothers Construction sent a skid steer and operator and also did not bill the Township) 175 trees were planted consisting of red, white, and jack pine. In 2021 we may plant a greater variety.

Next we turned our attention to the center portion of the pit. Cal Disterhaupt Excavating reworked the topsoil that had been previously spread across the pit bottom. Five loads of topsoil were donated by Sunup Ranch and were delivered by Clark Excavating. Anderson Brothers Construction placed the aggregate base on the "accessible" trails that crisscross the pit bottom. Volunteers again spent many hours discing, dragging, picking sticks and final grading the remaining half of the pit. A little over a half acre of the pit bottom on the west side was then seeded with a pollinator blend similar to the seeding earlier on the steep slope.



So what is next?

Our park committee met recently and agreed on the direction for 2021. First order will be to finish the pit area. There will be another 200 trees to plant along with a little more wild flowers and grasses along the pit trails.

The next priority will be adding more trails. The north trail will leave the pit on the north side and will swing around in the northwest corner of the property ending on top of the ridge between the pit and the lake. This area is intended to be a resting place with a view of the lake and a great view over the pit and the larger "Pillager Gap" valley. This trail should add about 1800 feet of trail which will be seeded like the original trail with a "low grow fescue".

Leaving the pit near "the big rock" an accessible trail will be constructed up the south side of the steep slope meeting up with the north trail. This trail will add about 800 lineal feet.

These projects should cost about \$17,000. That is more than the Township has budgeted so we will need to seek out additional grant monies. Last year we received a matching grant from the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District and another from Sourcewell for a total match of \$5,500.

We will have many opportunities for those who wish to donate time to work at the park. If you are interested and have not previously volunteered please contact Deputy Clerk Colleen Putnam at 218-746-3652 to be put on the volunteer list.

We will be developing a separate list of items for the park from which individuals may be interested in picking an item and donating towards that specific item such as larger trees, bench's, etc. A list with items and prices will be put on the website at a later date.

If you want to see a map of the park or pictures of some of 2020 work go to the Township website at [sylvantwp.com](http://sylvantwp.com). (see other news article in this edition regarding the website).

Dave Johnson, PC Chair

### New Town Board Member

I'm really honored and excited to have been elected to serve you as one of your Sylvan Township Board Supervisors. I hope to continue the tradition of protecting and preserving our rural atmosphere and resources, provide careful and informed land stewardship and responsive service to our community. I'm looking forward to connecting with everyone and I am committed to engaging and assisting whenever and wherever I can. Cooperative involvement is key to our success and progress as a community.

Thank you for your support and I hope to hear from you.

Bob Johnson



### 2020 Road Report

Sylvan Township is happy to announce upgrades to our roads this past year. The highlights include the paving of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This project included working with BNSF to upgrade our railroad crossing providing increased safety measures. Paving was extended along the complete length of the Township portion of 17<sup>th</sup> and to the end of the Gull River Cemetery. We widened the pavement next to the cemetery to allow for paved parking spaces which were identified by paint striping. Another project of note is Zebroski Acres Road becoming a Township road. The road was brought up to Township standards which allows the Township to takeover maintenance.

General maintenance this past year included mowing of ditches, crack sealing, shouldering where needed, cut and patch of road hazards that were identified as immediate fixes and general brushing. We were fortunate to have less snow and cold in the early part of the year which allowed for weight restrictions to be lifted off roads earlier.

Just a reminder that when we have early snowfall before the cold weather hits, we are limited on plowing gravel roads. Gravel roads are often soft at first snow and our plows and equipment can do extensive damage to the roads. We will make every effort to provide snow plowing to all roads as the strength of the roads permit.

As always, please let the Clerks at the Town Hall know of any problems that you encounter with Township roads by calling 218-746-3652.

Greg Bennett, Co-Road Supervisor 2020

### Pillager Lake Park Report

The Pillager Lake Park Board has 4 government entities, City of Pillager, Townships of May, Fairview and Sylvan. Each entity appoints a representative to the Park Board.

Our 2020 year was quite a bit different than other years with social distance in mind.

We still do not have a park host, if anyone is interested in being a park host please contact Arlene Schmit at 218-251-1048. The Park Board members are taking turns checking on the park. We would appreciate everyone's help in keeping it clean and please be respectful of the park equipment.

VanVickle Lawn Care will continue to keep up with the mowing and other needed services.

We are planning on meeting at the park on April 29, 2021 to get the park ready for the fishing opener on May 15, 2021.



### Website: [www.sylvantwp.com](http://www.sylvantwp.com)

Sylvan Township's website is a useful tool! Please take a minute to check it out. You can view upcoming meeting information and past meeting minutes. We also have the links available for attending our meetings through Zoom. Our home page will provide the most recent notices and updates from the Township. We provide information on our website about our History Series, Recycling, Parks, Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission. You can access Zoom meetings through your computer with video or non-video as well as on your phone with video or just calling in on the phone line provided in the Zoom meeting. If you have any questions regarding the website or zoom meetings contact the Clerks at the Town Hall.



Sylvan Township  
12956 24th Avenue SW  
Pillager, MN 56473

Phone: (218) 746-3652  
Fax: (218) 746-3612  
Website: <http://www.sylvantwp.com>

## Annual Town Meeting Set For March 9, 2021 at 7:00pm

**T**ownship residents can participate in grass roots democracy, deciding the annual levy and other important Town issues. The Sylvan Township Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date will be March 15, 2021.

Proposed 2022 tax levies are:

- General Fund           \$ 135,000.00
- Road & Bridge         \$ 500,000.00
- Fire Fund               \$ 89,022.00

Total Proposed Levy     \$ 724,022.00

Last year's levy total was: \$ 725,907.00

### Donations

Donations from Townships are very limited by Minnesota Statute. Some of the donations allowed by law include those to county fairs, county historical society, senior centers and youth centers. Any expenditure must be authorized by the Town Board.

### AGENDA—tentative

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY TOWN CLERK/TREASURER
  - 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance
2. ELECTION OF MODERATOR FROM COMMUNITY
  - 2.1 Introduction of Board Members
3. CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORTS
  - 3.1 Motion to approve minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting
  - 3.2 2020 Financial Reports—Audit Report on Table
4. TOWN STATUS REPORTS
  - 4.1 Fire Association: Yvette Adelman-Dullinger
  - 4.2 Planning Commission: Dave Johnson
  - 4.3 Park Board: Arlene Schmit
  - 4.4 Road & Bridge Supervisors: Greg Bennett
5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
  - 5.1 Donations or Other
    - 5.1.1 Cass County Historical Society - Letter
    - 5.1.2 Cass County Ag Society (Fair Board) - Lisa Fletcher
    - 5.1.3 Lakes Area Dive Team
6. SET TAX LEVIES FOR 2022 (see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2022 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN