

# SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



**March 10, 2015 Annual Town Meeting will be held at the  
Sylvan Town Hall at 7pm**



## **DNR Wildlife to Hold Second Open House for Proposed Gull River WMA**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is hosting a second informational open house to discuss the proposed Gull River wildlife management area (WMA) near Pillager. The date of this open house is to be determined, but anticipated to be held at the Sylvan Town Hall in March 2015.

The proposed Gull River WMA would encompass up to five tracts of habitat, including wetlands and uplands along and near the Crow Wing and Gull rivers. The majority of the proposed WMA would exist through a no-fee lease agreement between Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE Inc., and the DNR.

All lands being considered for WMA designation are currently open to the public. The purpose of the WMA designation is to enhance those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing and other compatible uses. The WMA would be open to non-motorized access, wild rice harvest, hunting and trapping. Permanent deer stands and ATV use would not be permitted on the WMA - except when permitted on existing roads.

Minnesota Power and DNR staff will be on hand to explain the proposed WMA and answer questions from the public. The meeting will start with a short presentation followed by a question and answer period and time for open house format discussion.

Any questions related to the proposed Gull River WMA can be directed to Christine Reisz at 218-429-3053, or [christine.reisz@state.mn.us](mailto:christine.reisz@state.mn.us)

The date of the open house will be posted at Sylvan Township's posting places:

Pillager Post Office  
Pillsbury Junction  
Pillager Plaza  
Corner Store  
Town Hall Display Case  
Sylvan's Website: [sylvantwp.com](http://sylvantwp.com)

## **WINTER 2015 Important Dates**

**March 8, 2015**  
Daylight Saving Time  
**March 10, 2015**  
Annual Town Meeting  
7:00 PM Town Hall  
Alternative date:  
March 17, 2015  
**April 5 2015**  
Easter  
**April 17, 2015**  
Board of Equalization:  
10:00 AM Town Hall  
**Free Tax Preparation:**  
Tuesdays through  
April 8, 2014 - call for appt

## **MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES**

Town Board Meets:  
1st & 3rd Thursdays

Planning Commission  
Meets:  
2nd Thursdays

Pillager Lake Park  
Advisory Board Meets:  
As required

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

Unless otherwise noted, all  
meetings begin at 7:00 pm  
at the Sylvan Town Hall.

**Sylvan Town Hall**  
(218) 746-3652  
Hours: Mon.-Fri.  
8:30-12:30 pm.  
1:00pm-2:30 pm  
Email us at:  
[sylvan@brainerd.net](mailto:sylvan@brainerd.net)  
Website:  
<http://www.sylvantwp.com>

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

**Town Board:**  
**Greg Booth:** Chair,  
Weeds  
**John Wulff:** Vice Chair,  
Co-Road & Driveway  
**Roland Anderson:**  
Co-Road & Driveway  
Supervisor, Park  
**Arlene Schmit**  
Co-Road & Driveway  
Supervisor,  
**Yvette Dullinger:**  
Planning Commission &  
Fire

## Sylvan Township Planning Commission Update

Last year a good deal of time was spent updating the Comprehensive Plan (long term vision) for the Township. This year we will be working with the priority goals of the Comp Plan in an effort to ensure it remains an active document rather than a dust collector on a shelf.

There were three general themes that seemed to come out of the Plan:

1. Better coordination with Cass County to insure that the desires expressed in the Plan stay in the forefront as the County deliberates permitting applications for residential zoning. On this subject we've had discussions along these lines and it appears there are areas that will allow greater cooperation.
2. Protection of the existing natural resources throughout the Township was also frequently discussed in the Plan. Along this line most protections are already outlined in both the Sylvan Commercial Ordinance and the Cass County Land Use ordinance. The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors will be paying special attention to storm water management best practices along with protection of forest and green space while landowners' rights are protected.
3. A third area of priority was cleanup of outside storage which has a negative impact on neighbors and neighborhoods. To this end, preventing new objectionable outside storage may be the most effective approach.

The Planning Commission also has two other projects that are just in the beginning stages:

1. The first is to review, and where necessary, re-write the road ordinance. At issue will be the roads that are not currently Township roads. How can they be converted and at whose expense? What should the Township standards be?
2. The second project is to determine the best use of the Carlyon Sylvan Lake Park property that has been donated to the Township. This spring we will be asking for help from Township Residents, Pillager High School Students, and other design professionals to figure out what fits, what works, and what is needed. Members of the Planning Commission have walked part of the property and it has fantastic potential and far more possibilities than we can afford to fulfill. The challenge will be to determine which projects make the best use of this property.

To help with this work we have added two new Commission members. Scott Hendrickson, a 14 year resident of the Township has agreed to join the Planning Commission to replace Bill Carrington. Scott has worked 20 years for Anderson Brothers as a project manager. He and his wife Melissa have 2 children. Our other new Planning Commission member is Tane Barclay who is a 8 year resident of the Township and is replacing Arlene Schmit who was elected to a four year term on the Town Board. Tane is retired from the Department of Corrections State Of MN in St. Cloud and has been married to Renea for 47 years.

Welcome Scott and Tane.

## **Road Report**

Unlike the last winter season, finding a place to put snow is not an issue. Our priority is keeping the township roads in good winter driving condition. We always appreciate when residents report issues or conditions that need to be addressed.

As you maintain your property, please do not place snow and ice on the road or in the right of way. Not only can this create a hazardous condition, it is illegal under Minn. Stat. 160.27, subd. 5. The Township has the use of the area, the road right-of-way, adjacent to the driving surface for snow storage and maintenance. No items other than mailbox supports can be placed in the ROW. The Sylvan Township has approved swing away mailbox supports.

The minimal amount of snow will allow some of the brushing to be done while the ground is frozen reducing the time required and the impact to the ditch areas.

We have two paving projects planned for this summer. One is Pine Tree Lane SW and the other is the East portion of 127<sup>th</sup> Street SW.

John Wulff  
Co Road Supervisor

## **What Should You Do If Your Onsite System Freezes**

If your septic system is frozen, your first step is to call an onsite professional. Unless the cause of freezing is corrected the system will refreeze next winter. If you have a pump and hear water constantly running in a pump tank (a possible indication of a frozen system) shut off your pump and call an onsite professional. This will likely be a pumper or an installer who can help determine the cause of the problem and offer solutions. The University of Minnesota Onsite Program web site is one place to go to locate a professional - <http://septic.umn.edu>. Many pumpers and installers have devices called steamers and high-pressure jetters to try to unfreeze system piping. Other methods used to help fix a freezing problem include adding heat tape and tank heaters. Cameras can be sent down the pipes to determine where the freezing is occurring and if repairs are needed. If the soil treatment system is full of ice, or there is evidence of leaking, there is no need to thaw the lines leading to the treatment area, as it cannot accept liquid until the area is thawed in spring.

If it is not feasible to correct the problem or equipment is not available in your area, the only other option is to use the septic tank(s) in the system as a holding tank until the system thaws naturally. You will need to contact a pumper who will empty out the tanks when they are full on a regular basis. This can be very costly, especially with normal volumes of water use (50 to 75 gallons per person per day). Reduce water use by limiting the number of toilet flushes, taking short showers, using the dishwasher at full capacity, limiting running water to get hot or cold and doing laundry at a laundromat. It is smart to find the cause of the freezing problem so that it can be addressed in the spring, preventing future freeze-ups. Then preventative measures can be added to the system such as adding insulation around the tank and pipes or adding additional cover. There are many misconceptions about how to deal with a frozen onsite system.

Do NOT add antifreeze, salt or a septic system additive into the system.

Do NOT pump sewage onto the ground surface.

Do NOT start a fire over the system to attempt to thaw it out.

Do NOT run water continually to try to unfreeze system.



Sylvan Township  
12956 24th Avenue SW  
Pillager, MN 56473

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 597  
BRAINERD, MN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Annual Town Meeting Set For March 10, 2015 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 10, 2015, at 7 p.m. at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date will be March 17, 2015.

Proposed 2016 tax levies are:

- General Fund \$ 116,000.00
- Road & Bridge \$ 549,314.00 Including Bond #1  
\$ 143,074.00 Bond #2
- Fire Fund \$ 69,300.00

Total Proposed Levy \$ 877,688.00

Last year's levy total was - \$ 871,843.00

### 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 2014 Annual Meeting
  - 3.2 2014 Financial Reports—Audit Report on Table
4. TOWN STATUS REPORTS
  - 4.1 Fire Association: Fire Chief Randy Lee
  - 4.2 Planning Commission: Dave Johnson
  - 4.3 Park Board: Yvette Adelman-Dullinger
  - 4.4 Road & Bridge Supervisors: John Wulff
5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
  - 5.1 DONATIONS OR OTHER
    - 5.1.1 CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY -
    - 5.1.2 CRISIS LINE - Mary Marana
    - 5.1.3 CASS COUNTY AG SOCIETY - Jennifer Panninen
    - 5.1.4 LAKES AREA DIVE TEAM
    - 5.1.5 NEW PATHWAYS - Cheryl Gray or Representative
6. SET TAX LEVIES FOR 2016 (see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2016 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS—Vacate River Ln. SW—Greg Booth
9. MOTION TO ADJOURN