

# SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



**March 8, 2016 Annual Town Meeting will be held at the  
Sylvan Town Hall at 7pm**



## WINTER 2016 Important Dates

**March 8 2016**  
Annual Town Meeting  
7:00 PM Town Hall  
Alternative date:  
March 15, 2016

**March 13, 2016**  
Daylight Saving Time

**March 27, 2016**  
Easter

**April 15, 2016**  
Board of Equalization:  
10:00 AM Town Hall

## 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.

### Road Report

We have had a good and very busy year with not much snow. We still would like you as residents to report problems with our roads, such as road signs down, holes, wash outs, brushing problems , etc.

As you maintain your property please remember not to place snow on the road right-of-way or across the roadway. Also, we have had a lot of garbage cans placed too far out in the road way which is a problem for our road maintenance crew.

Bond #1 will be paid off in February. We have one paving project this summer, 125th St SW, along with projects such as double chip sealing, crack filling or overlaying.

Have a good summer.

Arlene Schmit  
Co Road Supervisor

### Camp Ripley News Release

The Camp Ripley Fire Department and Range Control Office will conduct controlled burns January 20, 2016 - March 15, 2016 throughout the day and night in order to reduce brush piles in the training area.

"Ususally the burns are completed every spring before the summer annual training season begins. However, the weather conditions provide an opportunity for preventative burns earlier than usual," said Chief Pat Boone, fire chief on Camp Ripley.

During this time period the surrounding area of Camp Ripley can expect to see and smell smoke. All burn piles are controlled and are within safety regulations due to the amount of snow that is on the ground. The team will work to maintain control of the burn pile smoke by paying attention to wind direction and speed.

**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,  
Weed Inspector  
**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**

Since March of last year the Sylvan Township Planning Commission has been fairly busy. All residential permits are handled by Cass County Environmental Services. When a variance is required for these permits Sylvan Township is asked to review the application, join the County Planning Commission on a site visit, and offer a recommendation through the Township Board of Supervisors to the County. Over the past years the County has given fair consideration to the concerns of the Township which in turn gives great weight to our local concerns. In the past twelve months we have been involved in 8 variances with the County.

In addition, the Planning Commission has reviewed and updated the Township Road Ordinance. Last updated in 2003, the new version is meant to give better guidelines to the Town Board regarding the classification of roads, design of those roads due to their classification and adoption of roads currently privately managed. These guidelines help those living on private roads understand what will be required before the Township will take over the management and maintenance of their roads.

The Planning Commission has proposed an ordinance for a moratorium on development of feedlots in Sylvan Township while an ordinance regulating any future feedlots. Currently Cass County is a non-delegated county which puts all regulation of feedlots with the MPCA. At a recent public hearing the Board determined that there was no immediate activity in regard to feedlots and therefore no moratorium was needed at this time.

Most recently the Planning Commission has been working to determine the best use of the property on Sylvan Lake known as Sylvan Lake Park. This property has been owned by the Township since 1953. It consists of a 57 acre property along the Sylvan Lake Narrows, with Lower Sylvan Road running through it and West Ridge Road running along the north side. At a recent visioning session with 30 participants representing a diverse group of Sylvan Citizens, a consensus was reached as to the direction of future development of the property. While much work is needed to be done before a final plan is in place, the overall plan is quiet simple. The highlights of the results of this evening of planning are:

- Cleanup the results of the recent logging
- Keep the natural look of the property
- Develop a walking, hiking, snowshoeing trail within the property
- Develop an overlook with picnic tables on top of the lake shore bluff
- Creation of a kayak, paddle board, canoe landing on the property.

Prior to the development of the features above the Planning Commission will acquire a larger topographic map which will allow better siting of these improvements along with an entrance road and parking to accommodate park users. It was a strong recommendation of the vision group to make the park use for daylight hours only.

As this plan is fleshed out, further public information meetings will be held to keep interested parties informed and involved.

### **View from Chair Greg Booth**

Sylvan Township has a few irons in the fire, and quite a few good people to keep those irons hot.

The Township property on Sylvan Lake is a beautiful piece of land, featuring steep terrain, native vegetation, wildlife and views of the lake. Our Planning Commission has been gathering ideas for what (and what not) to do with this park-like parcel. A visioning session was held recently and gathered some good thoughts and ideas from residents, including several from the immediate area. What becomes of the property in the future depends on the wishes of residents and on funding. The Board has not made any decisions for any kind of work yet, beyond removing some trees under our forest management plan.

Sylvan won a Local Government Innovation Award from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs for its program offering septic system inspections at no cost to residents. Funded largely by a Clean Water Legacy grant, the project completed about 900 inspections of individual sewage treatment systems. Our goal was to help residents get their systems inspected, identify non-working systems, and improve water quality in the Township. We had a lot of help and cooperation from John Ringle, Cass County Environmental Services Director.

We have a Presidential election coming up, and with the interest in the race, the Town Hall should be a busy place on Election Day.

If you're interested in helping out with Township projects and goals, let one of your Board members know. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Historical Sylvan Township By Mike North

Because Sylvan Township is at the intersection of three major rivers – the Mississippi, the Crow Wing, and the Gull – and contains three major ecosystems – lakes, mixed deciduous/coniferous forests, and native grasslands – it should be no surprise that the township is the site of numerous archaeological resources as well as historical events. These sites and events are part of a shared historical landscape with other sites and events in Crow Wing, Morrison, and Wadena counties.

First, a list of events for which there is little or no physical evidence:

1. In 1768 a Dakota raiding party travelled up the Crow Wing and Gull rivers by canoe to attack Ojibwe villages on the Boy River chain of lakes and Leech Lake. The raiding party returned by way of the Mississippi River with several captive women, and was ambushed by Ojibwe warriors at the mouth of the Crow Wing River. Supposed rifle pits excavated by the Ojibwe are visible on the high ground along the river in Crow Wing State Park.
2. In 1781 an ailing white trader camped out at the mouth of Pillager Creek was harassed and robbed by a few Ojibwe. The trader and his escort party fled south in fear, where he died from his ailments somewhere near Sauk Rapids. Fearing retribution, Ojibwe elders sent a delegation to the British fort at Mackinac Island, to make amends. When they returned, they brought with them the small pox virus that devastated whole generations.
3. In 1862, at the height of the Dakota conflict, a contingent of Leech Lake band of Ojibwe camped out at the intersection of the Leech Lake Road and the wagon trail to the Chippewa Agency, 2 miles north of the village of Crow Wing, awaiting word from Chief Hole in the Day about whether the Ojibwe would join forces with the Dakotas against white settlers. Obviously, that command never came about. Original land survey maps show these two roads intersected immediately northeast of the pond visible on the east side of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
4. In 1868, Chief Hole in the Day was assassinated after his wagon crossed the Gull River heading west towards the federal Chippewa Agency. Traces of the old wagon trail can be seen between Kramer Lake and County Road 36 on the east side of the Gull River, so this would put the murder site just north of Fisherman's Bridge on the west side of the Gull River. For more information on this event, consult *The Assassination of Hole in the Day* by Anton Treuer.

Among the historical sites for which there is archaeological evidence still present, are:

1. A Woodland Indian village site dating to 800-1300 A.D.
2. The highest density of Indian burial mounds west of the Mississippi River including:
  - a. The western-most effigy mounds in all of North America
  - b. A 100-foot diameter mound visible in the woods north of Highway 210 about 1.7 miles east of Pillager
3. Some of the best remaining remnants of the Red River oxcart trails anywhere in Minnesota, on Minnesota Power lands north of the Crow Wing River
4. The Chippewa Agency, a federal outpost on the Crow Wing River from the early 1850's to ca. 1870
5. The oldest house in Cass County, on Highway 210 at the Gull River crossing. This house dates to about 1881 and is the last remnant of a large logging sawmill town formerly named Gull River, population 400.

Site locations not disclosed for their protection.

For more information, see Duane Lund's books *Gull Lake Yesterday and Today*, and *Tales of Four Lakes*; also *The Muster Roll, a Biography of Fort Ripley Minnesota* by Robert Orr Baker.



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## Annual Town Meeting Set For March 8, 2016 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 8, 2016, at 7 p.m. at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date will be March 15, 2016.

Proposed 2017 tax levies are:

- General Fund \$ 130,710.00
- Road & Bridge \$ 511,815.00
- Fire Fund \$ 63,000.00
- \$ 144,000.00 Bond #2

Total Proposed Levy \$ 849,525.00

Last year's levy total was - \$ 877,688.00

### 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 2015 Annual Meeting
  - 3.2 2015 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 - Letter
    - 5.1.2 Cass County Ag Society - Lisa Fletcher
    - 5.1.3 Lakes Area Dive Team
6. SET TAX LEVIES FOR 2017(see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2017 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN