

# SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



**March 10, 2020 Annual Town Meeting will be held at the  
Sylvan Town Hall at 7pm**



## Chairman's Notes

You, the voters of Sylvan Township, will have two opportunities to vote in March. The first Minnesota Presidential Nomination Primary is March 3, 2020 (although you can vote earlier by absentee ballot). There is more information on this elsewhere in this newsletter. On March 10, 2020 we gather for the Annual Town Meeting. This meeting is still the only time and place where you can directly vote on Township spending. The Board has prepared a budget for 2021, but you make the final decision on the levy. The Board has made an effort to keep our levy as low as possible while still providing vital services to the Township residents. The largest part of this is the Road and Bridge Budget. The Township has paid off two road bonds, and the Board agrees that much of that portion of the levy should be put into upgrading and repairing the paved roads that were built 15 to 20 years ago.

Voters also will approve funds for the general operation of the Township, parks, and fire protection. Township voters can also approve donations, although state statute limits giving Township funds to certain things such as county fairs and senior centers. Other deserving organizations, such as community hotlines or support services, can be handled with a Contract for Service voted on by the Board.

Please join us at the Annual Town Meeting. We look forward to visiting with you.

Greg Booth, Chair

## Important Dates

**March 3, 2020**  
Presidential Nomination  
Primary  
7:00 AM- 8:00 PM  
**March 10, 2020**  
Annual Town Meeting  
7:00 PM Town Hall  
Alternative date:  
March 17, 2020  
**March 23, 2020**  
Spring Short Course  
Town Hall Closed  
**April 20, 2020**  
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

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

**Sylvan Town Hall**  
(218) 746-3652  
Hours: Mon.-Fri.  
8:30-12:00 pm  
12:30 pm-2:30 pm  
Email us at:  
[clerk@sylvantwp.com](mailto:clerk@sylvantwp.com)  
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  
**Greg Bennett:**  
Co-Road & Driveway  
**Arlene Schmit**  
Co-Road & Driveway  
Supervisor, Park  
**Yvette Dullinger:**  
Fire, PC Liaison

## Sylvan Commercial Ordinance Updated

Changes have been approved for the Sylvan Commercial Ordinance (SCO). These changes, while approved, still await a resolution of approval by the Board of Supervisors which will then be recorded with Cass County. The purpose of the review and modification was to gain clarity regarding the businesses that could be allowed in a residential area and to clean up a number of minor technical items, redundancies, and conflicting regulations. It should be noted that **all businesses** have been required to have a permit by the original Sylvan Commercial Ordinance. These changes should make it easier to identify what type of permit is required and the performance standards that will apply.

In the past Home Businesses and Home Occupations have been allowed in residential neighborhoods. With the changes they are still allowed but the home occupation is divided into two types A and B.

### **Specific performance standards are as follows:**

#### **Home Business**

- May be operated in or outside the buildings.
- May employ up to 3 persons.
- Outside storage must be screened.
- Will not generate noise above 60 decibels at the property line.
- Hours will be limited by conditions.
- Home Businesses require an interim permit which requires a public hearing process.
- Will be required to move to a commercially zoned property if performance standards are exceeded.

#### **Home Occupation Type A**

- Requires a permit but there will be no fee.
- Must be conducted entirely within the residence.
- Allows no employees other than owners of the residence.
- Will have no outside storage related to the business.
- Will not generated noise beyond the property line.

#### **Home Occupation Type B**

- There will be a fee for the permit.
- May be conducted in accessory buildings as well as the primary residence.
- Accessory buildings must not exceed 2000 square feet in area.
- May employ 1 person in addition to the owners of the residence.
- Outside storage must be screened from public roadways, waterways, or neighbors' properties.
- Must not create noise above 60 decibels at the property line.

#### **In addition**

- Either home occupations will be required to be re-permitted if they exceed the performance standards.
- Businesses in residential areas may not result in an increase of traffic over 10% of normal traffic.
- All new business permits will require half of full cutoff lighting on the exterior of the buildings.

The approved ordinance may be seen at the Town hall and once recorded with the County it will be on the Township website.

### New Planning Commission Member

Dave Skogen is the newest member of the Planning Commission. Dave and his wife have been residents of Sylvan Township for 22 years and previously a lifelong resident of Brainerd. Dave is very interested in assisting the Planning Commission in the future development of Sylvan Township.

Dave has 12 years of teaching experience with courses taught in Biology, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Soil Science, Physics and Technology areas and also has multiple years of plumbing and construction experience that involved residential and commercial construction, and also drain field installation.

### Presidential Nomination Primary – March 3, 2020

In 2016 legislation was passed establishing a presidential nomination primary. This is the first time since 1992 that a presidential nomination primary has been held. The presidential primary will be held on March 3, 2020 at Sylvan Town Hall from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Absentee voting is taking place now at the Town Hall until March 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Common questions about the presidential primary are answered below:

1. Will all parties participate in the presidential nomination primary?  
No, only major parties will participate. Two major parties, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and the Republican Party, have submitted candidates for the ballot. Two other major parties, the Grass-roots-Legalize Cannabis Party and the Legal Marijuana Now Party, have notified the Secretary of State's Office that they will not be participating.
2. Will all parties be on the same ballot?  
No, each participating major party will have a separate ballot.
3. Will any other offices be on the ballot?  
No, only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the presidential primary ballot. Other offices with a primary will be on the primary ballot in August.
4. Who can vote in the presidential nomination primary?  
Any voter registered in Minnesota. Voters can pre-register through February 11, or register at the polling place when they vote. *Note that voters must turn 18 years old by March 3 to vote in the presidential nomination primary.*
5. How will I be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary?  
Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee ballot in the 46 days before presidential primary day (starting January 17, 2020). A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary.
6. Will other people know which party's ballot I request?  
A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.
7. Will there still be precinct caucuses?  
Yes, precinct caucuses and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business.



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Pillager, MN 56473

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

## Annual Town Meeting Set For March 10, 2020 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, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date will be March 17, 2020.

Proposed 2021 tax levies are:

- General Fund \$ 135,000.00
- Road & Bridge \$ 500,000.00
- Fire Fund \$ 90,907.00

Total Proposed Levy \$ 725,907.00

Last year's levy total was - \$ 874,124.00

### 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 2019 Annual Meeting
  - 3.2 2019 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 2021 (see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2021 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN