

# SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



**March 8, 2022 Annual Town Meeting will be held at the  
Sylvan Town Hall at 7pm**

## Faith Broberg, Sylvan Township Clerk-Treasurer, Retires

Faith Broberg, who served Sylvan Township for 23 years, has retired as Clerk-Treasurer.

Faith started as Deputy Clerk in 1998 and was appointed Clerk-Treasurer in 2003. She also was in charge of elections in the Township, which traditionally has a large voter turnout.

Town Board Supervisors, Planning Commission members, full-time and part-time residents, visitors and business contacts would likely all agree that Faith was the perfect face of Sylvan Township – always kind, always helpful, cheerful and steady. Faith had a great working relationship with the various Town Boards she clerked over the years. She oversaw the transition of the Town Hall from a concrete block building to a modern, well-designed Town Hall, and watched the Township population grow to almost 3,000 residents. Faith grew in her job as the Township's population, budgets, parks and roads all grew with it. Before her Township career, Faith served as secretary at Casino Church, rural Pillager, where her late husband Mike was pastor.

Faith was honored in a retirement party at the Town Hall in December 2021. In her retirement, she plans to spend more time with her children and grandchildren.



Bob Johnson, Greg Booth, Faith Broberg, Greg Bennett, and Arlene Schmit

**There will be an open house honoring Faith at the Town Hall from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM Tues, March 8th, before the Annual Town Meeting. Everyone is invited to stop in for cake, punch and coffee and to say hello to Faith.**

## Sylvan welcomes new Clerk-Treasurer, Jenna Ruggles

The Sylvan Town Board has appointed Jenna Ruggles as Clerk-Treasurer.

Jenna began working at the Town Hall on April 2, 2019, as Deputy Clerk #2. In 2021, Jenna began sharing some Clerk-Treasurer duties as Faith Broberg prepared for her retirement. Jenna has her Associate Degree in Accounting, and her past job experience includes finance, management and technology. Jenna has helped update the Town Hall's technology with the introduction of on-line meetings and computer upgrades.

Jenna is married with three adult children. She has lived in Sylvan Township since 2018. Jenna grew up in the suburbs of St. Paul and moved to Brainerd in 2012. Her interests include dogs, nature, fishing, board games, and MN Wild Hockey.

Colleen Putnam continues her tenure as Deputy Clerk, working closely with the Planning Commission and all Township duties. She is also assisted by Lydia Marohn, who has been electronically archiving Sylvan Township documents.

### Important Dates

#### March 8, 2022

- Faith's Retirement  
Open House 4 - 6:30 PM  
- Annual Town Meeting  
7:00 PM Town Hall  
(Alternative date  
March 15, 2022)

#### April 2022

Board of Equalization:  
Watch your mail for date

#### April 18, 2022

Easter Monday  
Town Hall Closed

### 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.  
8:00 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,  
Weeds  
**Greg Bennett** Vice  
Chair, PC Liaison  
**Bob Johnson:**  
Co-Road & Driveway  
Fire  
**Arlene Schmit**  
Co-Road & Driveway,  
Park  
**Keith Card:** Supervisor

### **Yvette Adelman-Dullinger Resigns as Sylvan Township Supervisor**

Yvette Adelman-Dullinger, who has been involved with Sylvan Township government for many years, has resigned her position as Township Supervisor due to health reasons. The Town Board has accepted her resignation with regret.



Yvette was appointed to the Sylvan Township Planning Commission in 2003, serving three terms. She was elected to the Town Board and served four terms, from 2009 through January 2022. Yvette devoted much time and interest to Sylvan Township. Her Township duties included representing the Township on the Pillager Area Fire and Rescue Association, liaison to the Planning Commission, Director of the District Association of Townships, volunteering for park planning and improvement, and serving as Sylvan's representative for the Cass County Emergency Management meetings.

Along with her late husband Kurt Dullinger, Yvette raised a variety of birds. She works as Controller at Range Printing in Brainerd.

### **Keith Card – New Town Board Supervisor**

I was born in Grand Rapids, MN and at the age 15 my family moved to Kiester MN. Upon graduation I joined the Marine Corp and became a helicopter crew chief. I served in Vietnam from 1970-1971.

I have been married to my wife Sandra for 48 years. We have 4 daughters and 9 grandchildren. We raised our family in Staples, MN where I taught machine trades at CLC. When I left CLC, I went to work for 3M in Staples. I retired in 2015 from 3M and moved to Sylvan Township.

I pride myself as always being someone that wants to be part of the solution. I accepted the Town Board Supervisor position to become more involved in the Township in a capacity where I can make a difference.

### **2021 Road Report**

Sylvan Township is working hard to get all our gravel roads upgraded or paved. There are plans to pave 134<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Zebroski Acres Lane in 2022. The Board would also like to do an overlay on Hardy Lake Road.

As we drive the Township roads, we feel the Road Contractor is doing a great job. Things that could help our Road Contractor do a better job would be if all residents would keep the road right-of-way clear of all obstructions (such as trees, plants, and posts). Also, if you could keep your trash containers in your driveways versus on the road this would be very helpful. Reminder: It is the responsibility of each resident to clear snow from in front or around the mailbox. We appreciate all the feedback we have received from our residents over the past year, it helps us know what needs to be addressed and what's going on with the roads in the Township.

Sylvan Township will be placing one more streetlight this spring. This streetlight will be at the intersection of Hwy 210 & West Sylvan Road.

### **Pillager Lake Park Report**

There are 4 representative governments that make up the Pillager Lake Park Board: City of Pillager and the Townships of May, Fairview, and Sylvan.

Sylvan Township reported that they had a great Park Host over the 2021 Park Season. They are hoping they will be back next year – but are always looking for more hosts. If you are interested, please contact Arlene Schmit 218-251-1048.

The Pillager Lions Club was able to help by donating their time to stain the play equipment and paint the bathrooms over 2021; the Park Board is hoping they will have time to come back in 2022 to work on the pier.

## Planning Commission Update

Sylvan Township continues to grow. From 2000 to 2010 the Township population grew by approximately 40%. From 2010 to 2020 the growth continued but at a slower rate of 6%. Our population now stands at 2889 which means Sylvan Township still has the largest population of any township or city in Cass County.

The age mix has also changed with the population aging mirroring the trends statewide. The age group 18 years or less is 13% less than it was in 2010 while the 65 and older group is 4% larger than it was.

In order to manage this continued growth the Township has 6 ordinances. The first is an Ordinance that requires a permit for the construction of a new driveway. The second is the Sylvan Commercial Ordinance (SCO) that requires a permit to have a business, a home business or a home occupation. This Ordinance is designed to protect the integrity and the character of neighborhoods. A third is an Ordinance that governs what utilities can and cannot do in the road rights of way. A fourth governs the location of adult oriented businesses. The fifth Ordinance is the Short-Term Rental Ordinance that regulates the short-term rental of property within Sylvan Township. The sixth Ordinance is the Sylvan Special Vehicle Use Ordinance allowing golf carts to be classified as slow moving vehicles and allowed on Sylvan Township roads.

The Planning Commission has been involved in variance requests that go to Cass County by attending the site visits and passing recommendations on to the Cass County Planning and Zoning Board.

The Sylvan Township Planning Commission also prepares Facts and Findings along with a recommendation on any permit requests made under the Sylvan Commercial Ordinance (SCO), passing them on to the Board of Supervisors who host public hearings and make the final decisions on such requests.

Most recently the PC has been updating the definitions in the SCO to allow applicants, PC members, and Township Supervisors a better understanding of the intent of the Ordinance.

In the near future the PC will be looking at the Sylvan Township Comprehensive Plan. This plan is intended to establish goals and objectives for the Township that help the Board of Supervisors govern with a future plan in mind. This plan has not been redrafted in over a decade with the latest review taking place in 2014.



## Township Lighting Initiative

It's a clear, crisp winter night. A glance skyward and the sky is aglitter with stars. It wows us and gives us pause in amazement. And, we are lucky, here in our part of the state – Sylvan Township, to be able to see such a sky of stars.

In 2018 Sylvan Township embraced a "Dark Skies" initiative to encourage residents to consider their outdoor lighting needs and how to mitigate light pollution. Why does it matter? At a human scale, it can be disruptive to our sleep, to our health. For wildlife, it can disrupt mating, migration, navigation ability and predator-prey behaviors. Darkness is important. And who doesn't love a starry, starry night?

Here are a few tips and suggestions on outdoor lighting: first, make it downward, this can be accomplished with hooding the light ensuring the light is cast only downward; second, consider motion sensors, lights on only when needed, but keeps the safety factor; third consider where to place lighting; and fourth consider whether you need to burn your lights all night long. Not only has lighting design changed so that it can be very direct and downward, not aimed at the sky, but it is highly efficient and cost effective with LED technology.

Currently, Sylvan Township's commercial ordinance for new construction has downward lighting requirements.



Sylvan Township  
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Pillager, MN 56473

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

## Annual Town Meeting Set For March 8, 2022 at

**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, 2022, at 7 p.m. at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date will be March 15, 2022.

Proposed 2023 tax levies are:

- General Fund \$ 135,000.00
- Road & Bridge \$ 500,000.00
- Fire Fund \$ 92,022.00

Total Proposed Levy \$ 727,022.00

Last year's levy total was: \$ 724,022.00

### 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 2021 Annual Meeting
  - 3.2 2021 Financial Reports—Audit Report on Table
4. TOWN STATUS REPORTS
  - 4.1 Fire Association: Bob Johnson
  - 4.2 Planning Commission: Dave Johnson
  - 4.3 Park Board: Arlene Schmit
  - 4.4 Road & Bridge Supervisors:
5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
  - 5.1 Donations or Other
    - 5.1.1 Cass County Historical Society/Museum - Letter
    - 5.1.2 Cass County Ag Society (Fair Board) - Lisa Fletcher
    - 5.1.3 Lakes Area Dive Team
6. SET TAX LEVIES FOR 2023 (see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2023 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN