

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP NEWS



**March 12, 2024 Annual Township Meeting will be held at the
Sylvan Town Hall at 7pm**



Chairman's Notes

- Greg Booth

You already know by now that every year I write about the importance of Township government and how it's the most grassroots government we have. Voting residents of Sylvan Township get to directly decide on taxes and other community issues such as parks, fire protection and donations. Our next Township Annual Meeting is March 12, 2024, at 7 P.M. in the Town Hall (see details elsewhere in this newsletter).

This year, I'd like to talk about a part of our community that is just as important as a town meeting: Community caring and social media. Just last summer, we lost a wonderful young man who was part of the Sylvan community. With music, a wide smile and a willingness to help anyone, he had a really bright future.

But following a tragic accident, he became the victim of cyber bullying. It became so bad that he decided he couldn't live with it any longer. Our community lost a great person, and he lost a promising life. He's now "in growing orbits, which move out over the things of the world," as the poet said.

The Township supports several organizations that offer help, and there is a fairly new crisis line for people considering suicide, and for people who are trying to help them (dial 988). There is also a new organization, Jacob's Voice, that has resources and information. The non-profit website is jacobsvoice.org. Volunteers are busy planning events and outreach this year.

Jacob's orbit took in many of us. His song is a great song. Help be a caring part of our community. Be kind.

Important Dates

March 5, 2024
Presidential
Nomination
Primary: Voting Hours
7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

March 12, 2024
Annual Town Meeting
7:00 PM Town Hall
Alternative date due to
inclement weather is
Mar. 19, 2024 at 7 PM

March 25, 2024
Spring Short Course
Town Hall Closed

April 1, 2024
Easter (Monday)
Town Hall Closed

April 12, 2024
Board of Equalization:
10 AM Town Hall

MONTHLY MEET- ING SCHEDULES

Township Board
Meets: 1st & 3rd
Thursdays (Except
December)

Planning Commis-
sion (PC) Meets:
2nd Thursday

*All Township Board
and PC meetings
begin at 7:00 PM at
Sylvan Town Hall
unless noted*

Pillager Lake Park
Board Meets: As
needed - monthly in
summer

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

Pillager Lions Club
Meets: Second
Thursday of month -
call ahead if coming
651-216-2400

Sylvan Town Hall

(218) 746-3652

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Email us at: info@sylvantwp.com

Website: www.sylvantwp.com

Cass County

For address changes,
contact Cass County at

218-547-7260

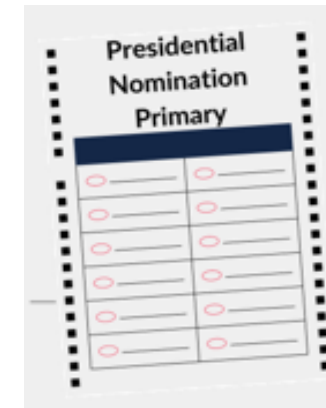
Sylvan Town Board

Greg Booth: Chairman & Weeds Supervisor
Greg Bennett: Vice Chair, Co-Road & PC Liaison
Bob Johnson: Co-Road & Fire Liaison
Arlene Schmit: Co-Road & Pillager Park Board
Keith Card: Cass Co Emergency Mgmt. Rep.



PNP Election

(Presidential Nominating Primary)
March 5th, 2024



Q&A:

Will all political parties be participating in the PNP Election?

No, only the 3 major parties will be participating - Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Legalize Marijuana Now, and the Republican parties. Each party will have its candidates for President only on the ballot, you will choose one candidate.

Will there be any other offices on the ballot besides President?

No, this is only the Presidential Nominating Primary Election.

Will all parties be on the same ballot?

No, you will need to disclose your political party to the election judge prior to voting. If you choose to not disclose your political party, you will NOT be able to vote in the PNP Election.

Will other people know which party or candidate that I vote for?

A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list will be provided to the chair of each major political party of voters who selected that party, the candidate you choose will be a secret. Election judges are trained to be discrete and take an oath to protect your privacy as a voter.

Who can vote in the PNP Election?

Any voter registered to vote can vote at the PNP Election on March 5th, 2024. Any non-registered voter can also register and vote for the PNP Election on March 5th, 2024.

Who decides what candidates will appear on a party's ballot?

The chair of each party have submitted a list of candidates for the party's ballot on or before January 2, 2024 to be on the ballot.

What if a candidate drops out before the PNP Election?

Once the political party chair submits their list of candidates to appear on the ballot (January 2, 2024), no changes will be made to that party's candidates on the ballot.

Will there be a place to write-in a choice or vote for "uncommitted"?

Only if it is requested by the chair of that political party.

Will there still be precinct caucuses?

Yes, precinct caucuses and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business.

What if I cannot make it to my polling place on March 5th, 2024 to vote?

Absentee Voting is currently open at Sylvan Town Hall for Sylvan residents. You can vote absentee prior to March 5th if you wish.



Road Reports

Sylvan Township has a new Road Contractor, Ryan Bodell, Bodell Landscape & Excavation LLC. Ryan and his family have lived in the area for 25 years and Ryan has 11+ years of experience. We are very excited to have Ryan and his team working for Sylvan Township. They have been doing a fantastic job so if you see him or his team out on the roads, feel free to give them a wave or say hello. - Arlene Schmit, Road Supervisor

Sylvan Township had a busy year in 2023. Two more roads that are in our township boundaries have now become fully maintained township roads. Residents from both 135th and Acorn Drive completed the process of requesting that the township take over maintenance. This process included a petition to the board, bringing roads up to township standard and agreeing to easements where needed. Our new contractor, Ryan Bodell and his crew did a great job bringing the roads up to standard allowing the board to finalize both as township roads.

Other major projects that were completed in 2023 are the overlay on Little Pine and 3 roads in the Bigwater area (Ace Dr, Crow Wing Cir, & Golf Course Cir). Anderson Brothers was the contractor on both projects and did a fantastic job.

Our road committee consisting of experts in road construction and maintenance once again updated the 5-year plan for maintenance of all roads classified as township roads. They have identified possible future fixes that will be needed for continual safe standards around the township.

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.

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.

- Greg Bennett, Road Supervisor



Sylvan Park

- Dave Johnson (Planning Commission Chair)

Unfortunately, 2023 was not the greatest year for Sylvan Park. Drought, weeds, and downed trees along with a lack of leadership on my part resulted in less progress than we should have experienced. That was 2023... this is 2024 and things will be different!

We had a fired-up group of park committee members at the January 6th meeting. Items discussed and agreed upon include:

- * Adding a kiosk that will give information on the park and the trail system
- * Replacing the current sign at the entrance
- * Planting an additional 50 trees
- * Hosting an open house, likely in the summer
- * Hosting a star gazing event
- * Burning a few brush piles this winter if our snow does not melt
- * Conducting a prescribed burn on a 10-acre portion of the park as part of our forest management plan
- * Conducting a series of weeding efforts in the wildflower area to we called "weed of the week"
- * Many more possibilities were discussed



Vickie Kettlewell was assisted in bud capping our young trees at the park by students from Central Lakes Adventure School. (Pictured)

If you have an interest in participating, please let us know by calling the Sylvan Town Hall 218-746-3652. You can help as little or as much as you like. If not, please take the time to enjoy the park and give us new ideas or thoughts on what you want next. Our next park meeting will be held at 6:30pm February 20th at the Sylvan Town Hall.

Pillager Lake Park

- Arlene Schmit

The Pillager Lake Park Board is looking at getting some grants in 2024 for new playground equipment. They received a donations from the Pillager Area Lions Club and Pillager Area Fire Association in 2023.

PARK HOST NEEDED FOR 2024! If you or someone you know is interested in staying out at the park this summer, please contact Arlene at 218-251-1048 or stop into the Town Hall and fill out an application. Responsibilities are minimal for the great view and atmosphere.





Sylvan Township
 12956 24th Avenue SW
 Pillager, MN 56473

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

E-mail us at
info@sylvantwp.com

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP REQUIRES ALL BUSINESSES TO OBTAIN A PERMIT
 See the Sylvan Commercial Ordinance (SCO) on our website for more information.

Annual Town Meeting Set For March 12, 2024 at 7:00pm

Township residents can participate in grassroots democracy, deciding the annual levy and other important Town issues. The Sylvan Township Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date due to inclement weather will be March 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

- Proposed 2025 tax levies are:**
- General Fund \$ 141,830.00
 - Road & Bridge \$ 450,000.00
 - Fire Fund \$ 110,000.00 *(tentative until mtg)*

Total Proposed Levy \$ 701,830.00

Last year's levy total was: \$ 744,288.00

Donations from Townships are very limited by Minnesota Statute. Some of the donations allowed by law include those to county fairs, county historical society/museums, and county resource groups. 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 2023 Annual Meeting
 - 3.2 2023 Financial Reports—Audit Report on Table
4. TOWN STATUS REPORTS

4.1 Cass Co Sheriff's Dept	4.2 Pillager Area Fire
4.3 Sylvan Planning Commission	4.3 Sylvan Park
4.5 Pillager Lake Park	4.6 Sylvan Road/Bridge
5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
 - 5.1 Donations or Other
 - 5.1.1 Cass County Historical Society & Museum
 - 5.1.2 Cass County Ag Assoc. (Co. Fair - Pine River)
 - 5.1.3 Cass County Ag Society (Fair Board - Pillager)
 - 5.1.4 Lakes Area Dive Team
6. SET TAX LEVIES FOR 2025 (see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2025 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN