

## **Annual Township Meeting Minutes** **Tuesday March 11, 2025**

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Attendance:** Clerk Ruggles called the 2025 Annual Township Meeting to order at 7:00pm. She welcomed the residents to the meeting and provided an overview on what was in their packets and what types of items they can authorize at this meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The sign-in sheet is attached to the minutes and shows who signed in, which included residents and community members Greg Booth, Bob Johnson, Greg Bennett, Keith Card, John Wulff, Arlene Schmit, Lisa Fletcher (Pillager Fair Board), Jamie Hauge (Pillager Fair Board), Jim & Sandy Anderson, Robert Sawyer, Dale Tougas, Jim Statz, Travis Kluthe, Paul Bock, Deputy Commanding Officer/Lieutenant Colonel Hall (Steve) (Camp Ripley), Kaisone Ithilojka (Camp Ripley), Sheriff Bryan Welk (Cass Co), Chief-Deputy Alger (Cass Co), & Chief Ringler (Pillager Fire).

**Moderator:** Mr. Greg Booth **moved to nominate Mr. Wulff as Moderator for the Annual Meeting.** As there were not any more nominations, Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to cease nominations**, seconded by Mr. Keith Card and the motion carried.

Mr. Greg Bennett **moved to install Mr. John Wulff as the moderator for the 2025 Annual Township Meeting**, seconded by Mr. Dale Tougas and the motion carried.

Mr. John Wulff came forward and reviewed the agenda and asked for any amendments to the agenda. Mr. Keith Card **moved to approve the agenda as presented**, seconded by Mr. Dale Tougas and the motion carried.

**Public Input:** There was none at this time.

### **Clerk/Treasurers Report:**

- **2024 Annual Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented**, seconded by Mr. Keith Card and the motion carried.
- **2024 Annual Financial Statements and Draft Audit Report** were available for review.
- **2024 Board of Audit Report** was read aloud and provided in the packet.

### **Town Status Reports for 2024:**

- Sheriff Welk presented his year-end report and answered several questions. His full report was available for viewing on the table.
- Chief Ringler provided a report from the Pillager Area Fire Association & Fire Department in the packet. He also provided a few more details and numbers for the year and the start of 2025 and was available to answer questions.
- Pillager Park Board report was provided in the packet by Supervisor Arlene Schmit.
- Sylvan's Road report was provided in the packet, and Greg Bennett was available to answer a few questions.
- Sylvan's Sylvan Park report was provided in the packet.



## Sylvan Township

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**Camp Ripley Community update:** was provided by Deputy Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hall. This update is available at the Town Hall and on Sylvan's website.

### Items to Consider:

- **Cass County Ag Society (Pillager Fair Board)** – Ms. Lisa Fletcher provided a brief update of what is needed in 2025 at the fairgrounds and what was completed in 2024. Mr. Robert Sawyer **moved to donate \$7,000 to the Cass County Ag Society for 2025**, seconded by Mr. Jim Statz and the motion carried.
- **Cass County Historical Society & Museum** – Mr. Greg Bennett **moved to continue our membership with Cass County Historical Society at \$250**, seconded by Mr. Robert Sawyer and the motion carried.
- **Cass County Ag Association (Cass Co Fair – Pine River)** – Mr. Greg Booth **moved to donate \$1,000 to the Cass County Ag Association for the Cass Co Fair in Pine River**, seconded by Mr. Keith Card and the motion carried.
- **Lakes Area Dive Team** – Mr. Greg Bennett **moved to donate \$1,400 to the Lakes Area Dive Team for 2025**, seconded by Mr. Robert Sawyer and the motion carried.
- **Pillager Area Food Shelf** – Mr. Dale Tougas **moved to donate \$1,000 to the Pillager Area Food Shelf**, seconded by Mr. Paul Bock and the motion carried.
- **Community Outreach Day** – Clerk Ruggles asked the residents to provide ideas on what they would like to see at their next Community Outreach Day and that they can contact her anytime with suggestions.

### Tax Levies for 2026:

- **General Fund** – Mr. Greg Bennett **moved to approve \$130,000 for the General Fund Levy in 2026**, seconded by Ms. Arlene Schmit and the motion carried. It was mentioned that this is a decrease from last year's amount of \$144,830.
- **Road & Bridge Fund** – Mr. Dale Tougas **moved to approve \$500,000 for the Road & Bridge Fund Levy in 2026**, seconded by Mr. Jim Statz and the motion carried. It was asked why it is higher than last year's amount of \$450,000 and Supervisor Greg Bennett indicated that the Board has a few big project road plans for 2025 and that they are looking at getting a Certificate of Indebtedness to cover the costs. The increase is going to help pay off that loan faster and it is bringing the budget back to what it was in 2023.
- **Fire Fund** – Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to approve \$121,000 for the Fire Fund Levy in 2026**, seconded by Mr. Robert Sawyer and the motion carried.

The total for the 2026 Levy is set at \$751,000.

**Set Annual Town Meeting for 2026:** Mr. Keith Card **moved to set the Annual Town Meeting for 2026 on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7pm**, seconded by Ms. Arlene Schmit and the motion carried.

**Other Township Business:** There was none at this time.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to adjourn**, seconded by Mr. Dale Tougas and the motion carried with the meeting adjourning at 8:15 pm.



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Minutes submitted by,

Jenna Ruggles, Clerk

Moderator – John Wulff

*These minutes will be reviewed and approved by the Sylvan residents at their next Annual Meeting in 2026, but for now these minutes are available as a draft for review purposed only.*

Date: 03.11.2025