



Sylvan Township
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Pillager, MN 56473

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Sylvan Town Hall: (218) 746-3652 **Approx. Hours:** Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Email us at: info@sylvantwp.com Website: www.sylvantwp.com



Important Dates

March 11, 2025 7pm
Residents' ANNUAL TWP MTG

April 11, 2025 10am
Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Mtg w/ Cass County Assessors

August 9, 2025 from 10 am—2 pm
Sylvan Community Outreach Day at the Town Hall

MONTHLY MTG SCHEDULES

Township Board Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursdays (Unless Noted)

Planning Commission (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 - please call ahead if attending 651-216-2400

Cass County
For **address changes**, contact Cass Co. at **218-547-7260**

Annual Town Meeting Set For March 11, 2025 at 7:00pm

Township residents can participate in grassroots democracy, deciding the annual levy and other important Town issues. The Sylvan Township Annual Mtg will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date due to inclement weather will be March 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Proposed 2026 tax levies are:

- General Fund \$ 130,000.00
- Road & Bridge \$ 500,000.00
- Fire Fund \$ 121,000.00

Total Proposed Levy \$ 751,000.00

Last year's levy total was: \$ 701,830.00

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 2024 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	4.4 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 Society (Fair Board - Pillager)
 - 5.1.3 Lakes Area Dive Team
6. SET TAX LEVIES FOR 2026 (see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2026 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Chairman's Notes

-Greg Booth

Sylvan Township's Annual Meeting is coming up soon. If you're a Sylvan resident, you get to decide on our final tax levy, donations to eligible groups like the Pillager Fair and Cass County's dive team, and other issues important to our community.

Our Town Board always tries to keep taxes as low as possible. This year's vote, which will determine the levy in 2026, will consider an increase in the Road and Bridge budget. This is due in part to our growing number of road miles, as well as increased costs to maintain those roads. Our road supervisors and road committee have recommended a road project that will rebuild several roads in one year, and be paid for over a number of years. This should save money in the long run, with savings realized in combining roads into one bid. The budget recommendation for our General Fund is actually lower for 2026 than in 2025.

The Board has also been actively pursuing — and winning — grants and funding for Township infrastructure improvements. We received \$50,000 in funding from Sourcewell to install solar panels on the Town Hall, and have applied for another large grant from the State of MN. Combined with tax incentives, the project will be fully funded without Township tax dollars. The project will also nearly eliminate Sylvan's electric bill. Another Sourcewell fund will cover a large amount of professional engineering for our road project. The Board, Clerk and Deputy Clerk encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting. Hope to see you there.

Sylvan Cemetery (located on 25th Ave SW)

-by Jeremy Jackson

The survey of the Sylvan Cemetery was finalized by Historical Investigator Jeremy S. Jackson in January 2025. The project included a literature review and field surveys at the cemetery. The goal was to identify all possible graves - marked and unmarked, compiling a list of the names of individuals that were interred in the cemetery along with respective vital records (date-of-birth and date-of-death), and identify areas of the cemetery that contain no burials which will be available for future interments. The survey identified a few depressions in the cemetery that are likely unmarked graves. A "Directory of the Dead" was produced with the list of all the names and vital records for all known interments in the cemetery. The list includes the names of 101 persons interred at the cemetery, and 98 of those have identifiable grave markers. A digitized grid map of the cemetery was also created showing the location of every marked burial, corresponding to a name on the Director of the Dead, as well as the location of probable unmarked graves. More information about this project can be located on the Sylvan Twp website.

Sylvan Township 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.



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Sylvan Businesses

- Dave Johnson (Planning Commission Chair)

The evolution of the Corner Store Depot

The development of the Corner Store Depot is truly evolutionary. From a fix-it shop, to a furniture store, to a plumbing and heating business, to a tiny bait and grocery store to a full service convenience complex with massive storage units, a used auto car sales, Beimert Outdoors, and TNT Auto Body shop. The Corner Store, located at the corner of State Hwy 210 and County Road 18, was started by Gary and Wanda Beimert in 1985. Gary and Wanda purchased the property from George and Sylvia Searcy. George had used it as a mechanic doing fix up work, then operated a furniture store for a short time. Gary and Wanda, along with their sons Larry and Brent, opened a small grocery store with bait and tackle. Over time, Gary regularly expanded the store within the existing building and upgraded the outside appearance, as Wanda tended the store. The bait and tackle business led to minor marine repair, which led to boat storage, which led to building several buildings to store boats in the off season. In 1991 the first of several storage buildings were built. Beimert Storage exists today at a different site. Beimert Outdoors, was started by Brent Beimert. A business specializing in hunting and retail archery equipment and repair, started in the back garage of the corner store, moved away and is now back since 2016. In 1992 gas pumps were added to the store and the parking lot was paved. In 2003 Gary and Wanda retired and sold the store to Keith Lunneborg. Within a couple of years, the store was closed until Chad and Ginny Knutson purchased the store in November of 2013. The store was renamed Corner Store Depot. The first mini-storage building was made by partitioning an existing boat storage building next to the store. Another boat storage building in the back was renovated to accommodate T’N’T Auto Body and Glass in 2016 as well. Chad was able to purchase the old Searcy farmhouse and 17-acres of land that surrounded the Corner Store property (2.75 acres) in 2017. Since that land was acquired, an addition was put on the body shop to house The Corner Store Auto Sales. Beginning with the land acquisition in 2017 they have built 3 more mini-storage buildings and a 500’ building that contains 20’x40’ storage units. They recently finished a solar array on 2-acres of land that will produce about 85% of the power consumed at the convenience store. The Knutson’s have been in the convenience store business at other locations since 1995.



J&B Western Store (new ownership)

It’s all about family at J&B Western Store. J&B Western Store has been and will continue to remain a trusted name in the Minnesota western store market as John and Betty Sundby retire after 35+ years in the business they are passing it off to Ryan, Kayla and their two sons Carson and Tyson Sundby. The Sundbys plan to bring in some fun new inventory including some everyday clothes, but they want to keep the tradition and name of J&B Western Store alive and strong for more years to come. Ryan and his sister Sarah have been running A Bit of Tack western store in Verndale which has been a very successful and will now partner with J&B Western Stores tack department. The Sundbys are there to help you with all your tack, saddle, apparel, hat, boot and accessory needs Monday – Friday from 10am–6pm and Saturdays from 10am–4pm.



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



Pillager Lake Park

-Arlene Schmit

It was a very busy summer due to the hot weather, the park was a great place to cool off. There was a great Park Host, and they may return this year. However, check back in the spring in case the spot isn’t filled. If interested contact Arlene Schmit, 218-251-1048 or stop into the Town Hall. The responsibilities are minimal for the great view.

The boat landing is getting a face lift this spring, along with a new dock. We are still looking for donations for



some good used play equipment to add or replace what we have. Also we’re doing signs for truck, boat, and trailer parking, as well as picnic and swimming areas.

Please don’t use the park garbage services for personal use, we are limited on funding. Thank you!



Sylvan Park Update

-Dave Johnson (Planning Commission Chair)

Sylvan Park continues to make progress with yearly improvements, including developments in 2024:

- In 2024, we added a kiosk inside the park's pit area with a trail map, trail information, donation details, and volunteer updates.
- A bench was placed on the overlook above the pit area where a hiker might need a rest.
- The picnic area has an edger for definition, and mulch will be added to prevent weeds.
- The Nature Conservancy had planned a prescribed burn for a significant area of the park. Extensive preparations were made in anticipation of this event. However, due to the dry conditions experienced last fall, the burn has been rescheduled for this spring.
- Some trail seeding was restored last year, but due to dry conditions, the remaining seeding has been scheduled for the spring of 2025.
- A big thank you goes out to Katie Lee and Shannon Pedersen for their time spent bud capping last fall.

During the recent Park Committee meeting, the priorities for 2025 were determined and include:

- Add two more benches along the trails.
- Adding a second enclosure to the kiosk's back.
- Designing and constructing informational signs in the pit area and along the trails.
- Planting a Basswood tree in proximity to the picnic area in the spring.
- 25 Red Pine trees will be planted in the spring.
- A sign will provide information on the park's geography, glacial features, and historical influences.



Remember trails are open all year long and snowshoers are encouraged to visit!
To volunteer or provide materials and memorials, please contact the town hall staff.

