

Sylvan Town Hall: (218) 746-3652 **Approx. Hours:** Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
Email us at: info@sylvantownshipmn.gov **Website:** www.sylvantownshipmn.gov



Chairman's Notes

-Greg Booth

The second Tuesday in March is Township Day in Minnesota. Along with all the other townships, it's Sylvan's Annual Town Meeting to determine levies, township services and other important community items. With around 3,000 residents and more than 1,700 voters, our township is the biggest in Cass County, yet only one to two percent of our residents usually attend the meeting. This is your chance to have a direct voice in township matters.

According to the federal inflation calculator, it takes \$1.70 today to buy what \$1.00 bought 20 years ago. The Town Board tries to keep levy increases to the smallest amount possible (proposed 2027 levy amounts are listed in this newsletter). Roads and bridges are the largest part of our budget.

After the residents (you!) vote on the levies, the Board certifies the levy in the amount you approved. The Board can, however, decide on a lower levy than the voters voted in. If the Board decides the voted levy is not adequate for township expenses, they can call a special town meeting at a later date to ask for a revised levy amount. Our Board is very aware of tax burdens, so they try to keep increases at a minimum.

This is a mid-term election year, so Sylvan Township's election judges will be in training to keep up-to-date on election laws and procedures. Our Clerks, Jenna and Colleen, are very well versed in election protocols and will make sure Sylvan has a well-run, accessible and fair election. Election judges are balanced between both major parties.

Finally, I'd like to say a big "thank you" to outgoing Planning Commission Chair Dave Johnson. Dave has devoted many hours, enthusiasm and knowledge to Sylvan's planning, parks and ordinances. Thanks, Dave, and enjoy your second retirement!



Sylvan Township is looking for new Planning Commissioners!

There will also be 2 Township Board Seats up for election this Fall.

Important Dates

Residents' ANNUAL TWP MTG

March 10, 2026 7pm

Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Mtg w/ Cass County Assessors
April 10, 2026 10am

Annual Road Review

April 11, 2026 8:00 am

Meet 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**



Solar Installation Story

-David Winkelman of Winkelman Solar Developers

There is a new solar energy system on the Sylvan Town Hall. The Town Hall, near Pillager, MN, has a relatively large roof that faces to the south. The hall, built in 2006, had a metal roof structure that was in good shape. Since the town board is promoting conservation of our natural resources in Sylvan Township, the township decided to install a 27 kilowatt (kW dc) array on the town hall roof. The solar panels now covering the roof also help protect the roof from the harmful rays of the sun and keeps the building interior cooler in summer.

No extra real estate was used for the array, which is estimated by developer Winkelman Solar LLC to produce an average of 31,015 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year. At twelve cents per kWh (the average retail cost of power from Crow Wing Power), that yields \$3,722 per year of electricity savings for a retail customer. For comparison, an average home in this area pays about \$1,200 per year for electricity, so the Sylvan Town Hall array produces enough power for three average homes.

The cost of the entire solar installation, including labor, was \$79,920. The solar installation was paid for mainly with grants from the state of Minnesota and the Federal government, so the payback was relatively quick. There are still some more solar grants available for businesses, non-profits, especially schools and public buildings.

"The solar project for Sylvan Township just made sense," said Greg Booth, Sylvan Township Chairman. "With a savings on our electric bill of around \$3,700 a year, and grants and tax incentives covering much of the project costs, the Township will save taxpayer money over the 30-plus year life of the project, while producing electricity for the Town Hall and the local grid."

For conservation efforts, the 27 kW producing 31,015 kWhs per year reduces the emissions from oil by 39 barrels of oil not burned per year. That is equal to the greenhouse gas emissions reduced by an average forest area of 12.3 acres per year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.



Pillager Lake Park

-Arlene Schmit

Pillager Lake Park received some nice improvements this past year. A big thank you to the DNR and dive team for installing the new boat landing. The park board also purchased a new dock from Ridgeline.

A huge "Thank You!" to Ella Machsmuth and her family for installing a new fence at the Park.

Our great Park Host will be returning this year, she made many improvements last year cleaning, painting, and planting flowers.

Please remember the slide is made for children 14 and under.

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



Winter and Roads

-Bob Johnson

Greetings to you all from Sylvan Town Hall! I hope this finds everyone doing well as we look ahead to the coming change of seasons. I too am looking ahead but as a Co-Road Supervisor I feel a need to look back and highlight some of the road maintenance challenges that the previous two seasons presented to us. While the `25/`26 winter season in Sylvan Township might be characterized as a more traditional winter it has also been described as the most severe of the last three. Challenges started in the Fall, just before Thanksgiving, with the rain switching to snow followed by gusty winds causing overloaded trees and branches to fall into several Township roads and ditches. A post-Thanksgiving storm a few days later brought additional snow and wind. Then December `25 was much colder than the previous two years, running significantly below normal with multiple days and nights well below zero not to mention wind chill. The January `26 cold snap was one of the coldest in four years with temperatures in the 30's below zero and wind chills in the 50 below range!

What's my point? It's winter in Minnesota, where's the challenge?

This is where I give a shoutout to our Road Maintenance Contractor, Ryan Bodell and his crew for a Fall/Winter job well done!! Being on call 24/7, removing trees and branches from our roads and ditches. Clearing roads in difficult conditions while understanding snow, wind, ice, surface temperatures, thaw, compaction, re-freezing and the fact that below 15°F, the salt/sand mix has minimal to no effect and the requirements to minimize environmental impact, it becomes way more than dropping the plow and dodging trash cans and safety's always first.

You all deserve a shoutout as well because you too had to adjust your driving to the same conditions! Job well done!!

As we move forward the Township Board will be looking at the affordability and availability of sharp sand/coarse sand, liquid magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, or other liquid brine options that may be more effective and have less negative environmental impact.

I encourage you to go to the Sylvan Township website at www.sylvantownshipmn.gov and check out the Sylvan Road Maintenance Policy. Take care and stay safe.

2025 Road Report

-Greg Bennett

Sylvan Township once again stayed very busy with road projects in 2025. Ryan Bodell, our Township Contractor and his crew did a fantastic job clearing snow from our roads, maintaining ditches, brushing, mowing and general road fixes.



Ryan's crew also took on the large job of tree removal and cleanup on Upper Sylvan Drive to prevent possible future safety hazards with downed trees. Ryan and his crew always are quick to respond to the needs of the Township and residents and do a wonderful job.

With the help of our road committee consisting of experts in road construction and maintenance, the Township Board identified roads that needed immediate attention. It was decided that Sylvan Township would enter into a certificate of indebtedness to gain the needed funds to complete such a large road project in the summer of 2025. This large road project included a total of 4 roads; West Sylvan Drive, 33rd Ave, 132nd St, and 13th Ave. This work was able to be completed in a timely manner thanks to Bryan Drown, Bolton and Menk Engineer for the Township. The work went well and we were able to take advantage of good weather to get these jobs done in a timely manner. As always, please let the Township Clerks know of any problems that you encounter with Township roads.





Sylvan Township
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Annual Town Meeting Set For March 10, 2026 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 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Sylvan Town Hall, alternate date due to inclement weather will be March 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Proposed 2027 tax levies are:

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

Total Proposed Levy \$ 760,000.00

Last year's levy total was: \$ 751,000.00

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 2025 Annual Meeting
 - 3.2 2025 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 2027 (see proposed levies at left)
7. MOTION TO SET 2027 ANNUAL MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2027 at 7:00 PM
8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

