

# Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2011

Chairperson Scott Welsh called the Regular Solway Town Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Solway Town Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Ron Gajewski and Clare R. Stromlund, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and seven concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to approve the minutes as written from the December 14, 2010 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Gajewski seconded by Stromlund and carried to accept the following tentative Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2010.

## Checking 12740 - 12782

Beginning Balance	\$186,721.34	
Receipts	\$110,106.16	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$-12,916.55	
Ending Balance	<u>\$283,910.95</u>	\$283,910.95

## Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$18,116.52	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$18,116.52</u>	<u>\$18,116.52</u>

## Total Accounts

**\$302,027.47**

### INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

**12/15 Minnesota Revenue** – Application for 2011 State Fire Aid. This application will be filled out by the Fire Department.

**12/15 PERA** - Annual Exclusion Report for Town Clerk to complete.

**12/15 University of MN Extension Service** - Wood ash product land application to the NW quarter of Section 33 in Solway Township. No board action.

**12/16 Cloquet Area Fire District** - The Cloquet Area Fire District has invited the town board to a meeting regarding the ambulance service run by the District.

**1/5 St. Louis County Public Works** - Crushing/Crack Sealing Program information. None of the gravel pits in the St. Louis County program are located near enough to Solway to make the program less expensive than using the pits located within the township.

**1/6 Cloquet Area Fire District** – Letter from the District inviting the town board to a meeting at Perch Lake Town Hall on Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup> regarding the ambulance service run by Cloquet Area Fire District. The County Association of Townships Meeting is the same night in Cotton. Clerk Merritt will attend the meeting to represent the board.

### OUTSTANDING BILLS:

The Treasurer has the following bills in addition to those listed on the Claims List for Approval: \$25.00 hall rental deposit returns to Carly Underwood, Peggy Heehn, Scott Haedrich, and Cathy Ziells; \$203.07 to Amy Johnson for parts to repair trucks #1 and #4; \$245.19 to St. Louis

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County for truth in taxation notices. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund, and carried to pay all outstanding bills as presented by the Town Treasurer.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) New Township resident Jeff Johnson has appeared before the board to explain to them that he plans to apply for a Conditional Use Permit to run a sheet metal and welding shop out of his garage. Mr. Johnson lives on 20 acres on the Jeffrey Road that is zoned Residential. According to the St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance, unless Mr. Johnson hires employees he does not need a Conditional Use Permit as "home-based businesses" are allowed in a Residential Zone if the person running the business is living in the residence on the property. Chairperson Welsh explained that Solway has a Planning and Zoning Committee that will meet with him after he applies for the Conditional Use Permit from the county.

**ROAD:** a) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he received a call from St. Louis County Public Works regarding East Jerry, Strom and Wargin Roads. The snowplow driver had complaints regarding these roads. The driver stated that there was a car in the way of the snowplow turning around on the East Jerry Rd. The county will contact the resident on the East Jerry Road to come to a solution. There were cars parked on the Wargin Road and a resident had plowed snow into the road. Supervisor Gajewski has spoken with the persons concerned. On the Strom Road, the trees with overlapping branches near the power line have been trimmed by Minnesota Power and the lower branches have been trimmed by Leon Forstrom and Supervisor Gajewski.

**FIRE:** a) There have been three calls for January; one mutual aid; one medical, and one chimney fire.

b) The new Fire Truck was inspected at Stainless and Repair Inc. on December 17<sup>th</sup> and will be delivered the week of January 17<sup>th</sup>.

c) The sewer smell in the fire hall was coming from the battery on the DNR grass fire rig. A battery charger was connected to the batteries on the truck and overheated causing the odor.

d) The truck donation from Enbridge Company has been put back a couple of months, but is still in the works.

e) The Fire Department plans to work the Bingo during the Winter Fun Day on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

f) The board discussed making the ice rink flooding a paid position. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to make ice rink flooding a paid position at \$11.00 per hour including travel time to fill truck. This position will be mentioned to Fire Department members.

g) The contract for Fire Protection Service with the Solway Volunteer Fire Department is up for renewal. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to renew the contract for Fire Protection Services with the Solway Volunteer Fire Department for the yearly sum of \$40,000.

Also up for renewal is the Fire Hall Lease Agreement with the Fire Department. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to renew the Fire Hall Lease Agreement with the Solway Volunteer Fire Department for the yearly sum of \$1.00.

h) Fire Chief Wayne Suliin has requested the funds from FEMA for the new fire truck. The money should be in the Fire Department's account by the time the new truck arrives. At that time the Fire Department will write a check to the Township for the amount that was borrowed to the Department minus the 5% match and extra amount over the FEMA grant dollar amount. This amounts to approximately \$25,000 in cost to the Township for the new fire truck.

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i) Firefighter Jim Johnson reported that he changed the oil on truck #4. There are a few problems with #4 including shocks, the steering stabilizer, and a leak in the shields over wiring for the strobe lights. Servicing out the rear pump will cost approximately \$400.

The air system in the fire hall is getting condensation in the truck lines because of the compressor being located in the warm utility room. Firefighter Jim Johnson can put a secondary tank outside that room and an air dryer assembly to fix the problem. The materials will cost approximately \$500 and \$200 labor. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to have Firefighter Jim Johnson modify the air system in the fire hall for \$800 and also for him to do the needed repairs to truck #4 in the amount of \$400.

The Township needs to dispose of fire truck #2 that will be replaced with the new truck arriving next week. The Fire Department mentioned that the Proctor Fair Board could use it at the Proctor Speedway. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to have the Fire Department dispose of truck #2 at no charge.

Firefighter Jim Johnson mentioned that the fire hose reel on truck #6 is inoperable. Firefighter Johnson has looked at it and feels it is an electrical problem. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried to spend \$100 to have Jim Johnson fix the hose reel on fire truck #6.

**RECYCLING:** a) Jim Miller reported that the Recycling Shed has been busy with 46 people visiting this past Wednesday and 55 people this past Saturday.

**HALL:** a) Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that the Sheriff's Department runs an office out of the Grand Lake Town Hall and Supervisor Gajewski is wondering if we should extend an invitation to the Sheriff's Department to do the same at Solway. The St. Louis County Sheriff's Department has not yet been contacted.

b) The Adobe Acrobat software needed for the Town Office computer has been ordered.

c) The board discussed purchasing six new banquet tables at the last meeting and the Clerk has two quotes available. One from Hertz Furniture in the amount of \$1,354.16 and the second from National Business Furniture in the amount of \$1,590.30. These tables are similar to the tables now at the hall, but with a hollow core making them lighter and easier to move. The board plans to take the oldest of the tables in the hall and make them available for renting. They would replace the ones in the rental shed that are in bad shape and no longer usable. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to purchase six tables from Hertz Furniture for \$1,354.16

d) The Clerk received a request from the Harbor Squares dancing group to use the hall on the third Sunday of the month from September to March. This group has used the hall in the past with no problems. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to allow the Harbor Squares to use the hall as requested.

**PARK:** a) The monthly playground inspection shows no hazards and that the parks are in good shape.

b) The skating rink warming shed will be in operation for the Winter Fun Day on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**CEMETERY:** a) Chairperson Gajewski completed a cemetery inspection along with the monthly playground inspection. No safety hazards were found.

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**COMMITTEES:** a) The next Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee meeting will be the Public Meeting on January 25, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:** a) The Clerk reported that she has not yet received an Aggregate Tax Reporting Form from Mahnke Trucking. The Board directed the Clerk to contact Mahnke Trucking and if a reporting form is not returned to the Town Office to have John Bray write a letter. Mahnke Trucking will be audited by Don Walsh by the end of January.

**NEW BUSINESS:** a) The Township is required by law to appoint an Absentee Ballot Board to accept or reject ballots for the upcoming Township Election. This has to be done by Resolution. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to adopt Resolution #74 as follows:

**WHEREAS,** Minnesota Statutes Section 203B.121, subd.1 requires the town board, as the governing body of the town, to appoint a ballot board to process all absentee ballots returned to the town clerk for the town election scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011; and

**WHEREAS,** the ballot board must consist of election judges trained in the handling of absentee ballots, or staff trained as election judges; and

**WHEREAS,** even though only two members are required to meet whenever an absentee ballot needs to be processed, the ballot board must consist of at least the same number of members as the minimum number of required election judges for the town election, which pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 204B.22 has been determined to be four for the March 8, 2011 election for the Town of Solway; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town Board for the Town of Solway has appointed its election judges for the March 8, 2011 election as required by Minnesota Statutes Section 204B.21;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Town Board for the Town of Solway hereby appoints the following election judges to serve as the ballot board required to perform all duties required in the processing of absentee ballots required under Minnesota Statutes Section 203B.121 and all other applicable statutes and rules:

Bonnie Siiro  
Ron Gajewski  
Leon Forstrom  
Regena Merritt

Supervisor Stromlund moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and it was declared adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011 upon the following votes: Yeas – Clare R. Stromlund, Ronald Gajewski and Scott Welsh. Nays – none. Absent – none.

**b)** The board needs to appoint election judges for the Township Election on March 8, 2011. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to appoint Bonnie Siiro, Clare Stromlund, Amy Johnson and Mary Saline as election judges for the Township Election March 8, 2011.

**c)** The board needs to set a date for the Budget Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund to set the Budget Meeting for February 22, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

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**d)** It was brought to the Boards attention by a township resident that the nominations for Citizen of the Year should be open to all property owners not just township residents. The board discussed the matter and agreed. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to change the criteria for Citizen of the Year from Township Resident to Township Resident/Property Owner.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.