

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2010

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 from the April 13, 2010 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Stromlund seconded by Gajewski and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated April 30, 2010.

**Checking 12360 - 123401**

Beginning Balance	\$156,600.97	
Receipts	\$4,170.45	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$10,922.41	
Ending Balance	\$149,849.01	\$149,849.01

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$ 113,668.48	
Interest/Deposits	\$28.03	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	\$113,696.51	\$113,696.51

**Total Accounts** **\$263,545.52**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**4/20/10 ARDC** - Grant program available for transportation planning. No board action.

**4/22/10 SLC Auditor's Office** - Election Judge list for the Republican Party.

**4/29/10 MN Department of Agriculture** – Workshop is being held concerning the emerald ash borer. Town Board will not attend.

**5/4/10 WLSSD** - Scheduled meetings concerning upcoming changes in the way the recyclable materials are collected and recycled. The Clerk will attend this meeting along with Recycling Shed Attendant Jim Miller.

**5/7/10 St. Louis County Auditor's office** - Election Judge list – Democratic Party.

**5/7/10 St. Louis County Auditor's office** - Notice of filing for November General Election.

**5/10/10 University of MN** - Exchange Newsletter. No board action.

**5/11/10 Country Trucking** - Aggregate reporting form for second quarter of 2010.

**5/11/10 SLC Planning & Development** - Joint Cooperation Agreement renewal. This agreement entitles the County to receive annual allocations from programs administered by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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The agreement will automatically renew for three years unless the Board terminates the agreement. The board wishes to continue with the Joint Cooperation Agreement with St. Louis County.

**5/11/10 DHW Consulting** - Aggregate Tax Consulting Service – Mr. Don Walsh provides a service to verify through audits that the Aggregate Tax paid to the township is correct. The board would like to have Mr. Walsh appear at the next town board meeting to give an overview of his services. The Board asked the Clerk to check with Township attorney John Bray to see if the township does have the authority to audit gravel pits. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to invite to the Mr. Don Walsh to the June meeting for an overview of his services and an estimate of the costs involved.

**5/11/10 WLSSD** - WLSSD is applying for a grant from the State of Minnesota for a quarterly electronic waste pick-up at the Solway recycling shed. WLSSD is asking for a letter of support from the Town Board that they can send to the state. The Town board is in favor of WLSSD applying for this grant and will send a letter of support.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** The Treasurer has four additional bills. The first bill is from Duluth News Tribune for legal publishing in the amount of \$130.00; the second is from A.J.'s Landscaping for topsoil delivered to the cemetery in the amount of \$85.50; the third is to Clare R. Stromlund for reimbursement in the amount of \$9.34; and the fourth is to Regena Merritt for reimbursement in the amount of \$26.00. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to pay all outstanding bills as presented by the Treasurer.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) The Clerk reported that she received a call from a Maple Grove resident complaining about tractors and equipment on the Kim Johnson property that is visible from their property. Tractors stored within the 50-foot set back. Mr. Johnson has a conditional Use Permit that states he is to have screening along the east property line and tractors need to be set back a minimum of 50-feet from the side lot lines. The resident registered her complaint to the county and wanted to inform the Town Board.

**ROAD:** a) Supervisor Ron Gajewski went on the Annual Road Inspection and has roadwork recommendations for the township roads. These recommendations include three culverts and 113 loads of gravel. A copy of the road survey sheets is attached to these minutes. There are several township roads that need to be brushed. Supervisor Gajewski marked these roads on a map that was sent to Dougherty Aggregate, CAL Contracting and Don Juten at Gnesen Township for a quote. Gnesen Township has their own brushing equipment that they will rent to other townships with or without an operator. Gnesen Township Supervisor Don Juten operates this equipment and he will do so for \$100 a day if the town board chooses. If Canosia Township decides to brush their roads at the same time as Solway does, Mr. Juten stated that the cost of transporting the machinery could be split between Canosia and Solway. Dougherty's quote was \$5,200. CAL and Gnesen Township quotes were \$2,200 and \$2,300 respectively. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to rent brushing equipment from

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Gnesen Township and hire Mr. Don Juten from Gnesen Township to brush the township roads that are highlighted on the map given to him by Supervisor Gajewski. Supervisor Gajewski will work out the details with Mr. Juten.

The Town Board has gravel quotes from Shelton Excavating and Jim Lindquist. The board specified the gravel come from Coon's Aggregate. Mr. Lindquist's quote is \$15.20 per yard for Class 5 gravel from his own pit. Shelton's quote is \$15.80 for Class 5 from Coon's Aggregate. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to accept Shelton's quote of \$15.80 per yard for gravel to be applied to the township roads.

**b)** There is a temporary Qwest phone line on top of the ground in the South Jeffrey Road right-of-way. Supervisor Gajewski will contact Qwest to have the line removed.

**c)** The Clerk received a phone call from a Wargin Road resident asking if they could put rocks around the culvert opening at their driveway to keep gravel from washing away. MOTION by Gajewski seconded by Stromlund and carried to have the Clerk check with St. Louis County regarding their regulations for culverts, and if rocks are allowed around culvert openings. If the county allows rocks then the town board will allow township residents to do the same.

**d)** Supervisor Gajewski has obtained estimates from Sinnott Blacktop and KTM Paving as requested by the town board for crack filling, sealing and striping of the blacktop areas at the town site. KTM's quote is \$6,762.00 and Sinnott's quote is \$6,325.00. Motion by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to hire Sinnott Blacktop to crack fill, seal coat and stripe the black top areas at the town site. Leon Forstrom will crack fill the basketball/tennis court area.

**FIRE: a)** Statement of Economic Interest forms for the Solway Relief Association were signed by the Town Board. The Town Board serves on the Fire Department Relief Association Board. These forms are required by the state of Minnesota, and state that no one who serves on the Relief Association Board has an interest in any financial institution.

**b)** Firefighter Gordy Jensen reported that the builder of the new fire truck (Stainless & Repair, Inc.) will need a payment of approximately \$40,000 when the truck chassis is delivered in September. A bond is required when there is any money invested by the Township or the Fire Department. The truck builder understands this and will take out a bond for the dollar amount invested and will pay the cost of obtaining the bond. This payment made by the township will be refunded by the Fire Department when the grant money is made available.

**c)** A meeting with Stainless & Repair and the International truck dealer was held at the Fire Hall and went very well. Only a few minor changes were made in the design of the truck. Firefighter Al Mitchell took a tour of the Stainless & Repair facilities where the fire truck will be assembled.

**d)** The storage compartments on truck #4 are having a problem with mold. There is no air getting into these storage compartments, and air vents cut into them should help. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to have air vents put in the storage compartments of truck #4. The work will be done at Hanson's.

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**e)** The Town Board would like the Fire Department to move their things out of the bus garage at the Munger Site. If anything can be used by the firefighters, they have first choice and whatever is left will be put in the garbage. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to have the Fire Department clean their things out of the bus garage and to allow the firefighters to take anything they would like. The Township will get a dumpster to dispose of whatever is left.

**RECYCLING:** **a)** Electronic disposal grant that was applied for by WLSSD was addressed under correspondence.

**HALL:** **a)** Supervisor Gajewski has quotes for purchase and installation of a new flagpole as the town board directed. The first quote from Elder Flag is \$3,300.00 for pole and installation; the second quote is from Todd Signs for \$1,418.00 and includes the pole and installation. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to have Todd Signs install a new thirty-foot flagpole at the town hall.

**b)** Renters who use the downstairs have asked for a vacuum to use when cleaning up. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to purchase a vacuum for under \$150.00 for use by hall renters.

**c)** Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that the board usually has the hall floors refinished every few years. The Board feels the upstairs hall floor does not need any work at this time.

**PARK:** **a)** Cookie Saline reported to Supervisor Gajewski that the field scheduling is going fine.

**b)** The Board has talked about purchasing a trailer in the past and tabled the discussion to this spring. The board would like this on the June agenda.

**c)** Supervisor Gajewski reported from his inspection that there are no hazards at the park.

**CEMETERY:** **a)** One burial: Rachel Mattson

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

**COMMITTEES:** **a)** The Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee will meet on Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The Clerk has sent meeting notices to those who were on the last CLUP Committee and anyone who is interested in serving on this Committee. There was also an article in the newsletter inviting residents to be on the Committee.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **a)** The Town Board has a contract from John Powers of Applied Insights that needs to be signed by the Chairperson. This contract is for his work to update the Solway Township Comprehensive Land Use Plan. A Special Meeting was held April 5, 2010 at which time the town board hired Mr. Powers.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** a) There will be a Minnesota Association of Townships Short Course on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Carlton. MOTION by Welsh seconded by Stromlund and carried to allow town board members that can attend do so at township expense.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.