

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2011

Chairperson Clare Stromlund 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 Scott Welsh, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe, four concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried to approve the minutes as written from the September 13, 2011 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Welsh seconded by Gajewski and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated September 30, 2011.

Checking 131380- 13223

Beginning Balance	\$208,753.21	
Receipts	\$598.68	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	<u>\$-28,366.27</u>	
Ending Balance	\$180,985.62	\$180,985.62

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 108,205.72	
Interest/Deposits	\$22.09	
Withdrawals	<u>\$00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$108,227.81	\$108,227.81

Total Accounts \$289,213.43

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

9/26 Proctor Area Historical Society - Donation request. The board is not allowed to donate without electorate approval.

9/28 St Louis County Public Works – Most current road maintenance agreement between St. Louis County and Solway Township, and a copy of the St. Louis County Snow and Ice Control Policy. No board action. These will be kept on file at the town office.

10/3 WLSSD - Operation grant in the amount of \$6,515.52 received for expenses incurred during 2010.

10/3 St. Louis County Auditor – Grants are available through the federal Help America to Vote Act grants for accessibility improvements and equipment. No board action.

10/11 Ashley Winchell, Proctor Schools - Corrected ballot question wording. No board action.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh, and carried to pay all outstanding bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills List.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: There are none.

ROAD: a) Shelton Excavating has completed work to the shoulders of the Jeffrey Road.

b) The Board discussed the sign replacement program. They are questioning whether "Stop Ahead" signs on Township Roads where the actual "Stop" sign is not on a Township Road need to be replaced, and if so who is responsible. Supervisor Gajewski is questioning if sign poles need to be the "breakaway" type.

FIRE: a) Jeffrey Nelson reported for the Fire Department that there has been 61-calls year-to-date, five more last year this time. There have been three calls so far in October.

b) The Fire Department Recognition dinner is scheduled for Thursday October 13th at 6:30 PM. Retired members of the Fire Department and the Flamettes Auxiliary are invited to this dinner.

c) Chief Wayne Suliin has submitted a FEMA grant for a new tanker to replace #3.

d) MN Department of Natural Resources dry hydrant program can be used for funding water storage tanks. These grants are a 50/50 match. The needed funds are not available at this time.

e) Jeff Nelson has updated the names on the Fire Department plaques in the town hall.

RECYCLING: a) Jim Miller reported that everything is going well.

HALL: a) The outside light on the northwest corner of the hall is not working. Red D Electric has replaced the bulb and starter but the light is still not working. Supervisor Gajewski contacted Rick at Red D Electric and was told it would be cheaper to replace the light fixture. Supervisor Gajewski will request that this be completed before the Halloween Carnival.

b) Two new coffee makers and an upholstery cleaner have been purchased for town hall use.

c) Como Oil has fixed a leak in the water heater that was discovered by Leon Forstrom.

PARK: a) Fertilizing the soccer field will be completed as weather permits.

b) Supervisor Gajewski and Leon Forstrom have made repairs to the Munger bus garage roof.

c) The board is searching for the wording that was on the missing plaque from the front of the pavilion. The Board would like to replace this plaque if they can find the wording. There was only a small piece of the plaque found that didn't give them any idea of what it said.

d) The monthly playground inspection shows no hazards and that the parks are in good condition. Veronica Childers has completed painting of the recycling shed and the baseball dugouts.

e) The Clerk will call Portable John to have the biffie at the soccer field removed on October 24th.

CEMETERY: a) & b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that AJ's will plant trees at the cemetery for \$100 each. Fill needs to be added to the low areas at cemetery before tree planting can be done. The Board will add cemetery improvements as an agenda item for the Annual Meeting in March 2012.

c) Supervisor Gajewski completed a cemetery inspection along with the monthly playground inspection. No safety hazards were found.

COMMITTEES: a) Special Events Halloween Carnival will take place Friday October 28th at 5:30 p.m. with set-up for the carnival Thursday at 5:30. The last planning meeting is Monday October 24th at 6:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: a) There has been no news or correspondence regarding the Welsh Cartway.

b) Newsletter was mailed out.

c) Supervisor Gajewski reported the following from the legal seminar he and Chairperson Stromlund attended.

- The wording used for granting a variance has changed from “an undue hardship for the applicant to comply with the zoning” to “applicant has no reasonable use of the property without the variance”.
- Conditional Use Permits run with the land and can stay forever as long as conditions are not violated.
- Interim Use Permits are similar to a Conditional Use Permit except that it is issued for a limited period of time.
- Planning and Zoning Committees may be subject to the Open Meeting Law. Clerk Merritt will check to see that Solway is in compliance.
- The Township should have on file a Resolution establishing an annual expiration date for requests of notice of Special Meetings. The Board is not sure whether this is for Special Meetings only or any Meeting including Town Board Meetings, where a certain topic is discussed. The Clerk will check with Attorney Mike Couri who was one of the speakers at the seminar.
- When the Town Board approaches contractors to get quotes but only receives one response, it should be documented that the Board contacted more than one contractor but only received one response.

NEW BUSINESS: a) Supervisor Gajewski reported that the Township may make a resolution to bill the railroad for any clean up costs incurred by the township in case of an accident. The Board will discuss this at the next Town Board Meeting.

b) The Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Conference is November 17-19, 2011 in Alexandria Minnesota. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to allow any Town Board member to attend the Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Conference and to do so at Township expense including transportation on the bus reserved through the County Association of Townships.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adjourn tonight’s meeting after the Board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.