

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

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written and distributed from the November 12, 2014, Town Board Meeting.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the following Treasurer's report dated November 30, 2014.

**Checking:15051-15106**

Beginning Balance	\$292,865.16	
Receipts	14,153.65	
Disbursements	<u>\$-21,830.55</u>	
Ending Balance	\$285,188.26	<b>\$285,188.26</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$108,592.52	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$108,592.52	<b><u>\$108,592.52</u></b>

**Total Accounts**

**\$393,780.78**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**11/12 St. Louis County Auditor's Office** - Notice that Solway was selected for a post-election review. No board action. The Clerk reported that there were no problems and the review went well.

**11/13 SLC Planning & Development** (via email) - Questions regarding Coon's Aggregate. The Clerk contacted Planning and Development regarding Coon's Aggregate conditional use application for a hot mix plant and asphalt and concrete recycling. The Clerk asked if the number of trucks entering the pit would increase and also, how far the notification of a conditional use application goes out to neighboring property owners. The county responded that Coon's Aggregate stated there will not be any additional truck traffic and the county sends notification to property owners a ¼ mile from the property lines of the proposed use site.

**11/14 Cloquet Sanitary Service** – Bid for garbage service. This bid was unsolicited by the Board. It is less expensive than the present garbage hauler and the Board has directed the Clerk to contact the present hauler to see what they can offer.

**11/19 Karyn O'Brien for Verizon** (via email) – Conditional Use permit put on hold due to a wetlands issue with the proposed site.

**11/25 St. Louis County Planning & Development** – Notice of Public Hearing on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. No board action.

**12/1 Chester & Gloria Hansen** – Copy of letter to St. Louis County regarding Coon's Aggregate conditional use permit application.

**12/4 Northland Recreation** (via email) – Notice regarding price on the blue whale for the playground. The Clerk emailed Northland Recreation to check prices for the blue whale on the lower playground that was vandalized. The Clerk will order the replacement as previously authorized.

**12/5 Minnesota Secretary of State's Office** – Election information for Clerks. No board action.

**12/8 St. Louis County Planning and Zoning** (via email) - Question from Clerk regarding dust

control. The county informed the Board that pit owners are responsible for the dust control within the pit itself.

**12/8 Duluth News Tribune** – Notice of filing for Township Office.

**12/9 Solway Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee** – Letter from the committee recommending to not approve the Coon's Aggregate conditional use application for a permanent hot mix plant, a portable hot mix plant, and recycling asphalt and concrete. This will also be discussed under Committees.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** The Treasurer has three additional bills to be added to the Outstanding Bills list as follows: Scott Welsh's reimbursement is to be changed from \$58 to \$66.36, \$25 to Scott Welsh for a hall rental deposit refund, and \$125 hall rental and damage deposit refund to Diana Loness. There is a bill from Shelton's Excavating in the amount of \$4,450 for the new septic system. As there is still some electrical work yet to be finished, the board directed the Treasurer to hold back half of that amount. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to pay all outstanding bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list in the amount of \$11,870.61, and to hold back half of the amount owed to Shelton's Excavating until the electrical work is completed.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) Deputy Clerk Jensen had been asked by a renter who they should call if there was a hall emergency. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously for the Clerk to make a list of emergency numbers to post for renters to use if there are problems with the hall building during a rental.

**ROAD:** a) The Clerk is still gathering information to help the Board develop a driveway policy. This item will be discussed at the next Town Board meeting.

b) Payment in full has been received from Country Trucking for the Third Quarter of 2014 Aggregate tax.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** a) Fire Chief Chris LaGraves reported for the department that there have been six calls since the last meeting.

b) The Department has requested an ISO Inspection that will be completed this month. The Department's compliance is much improved since the last inspection in 1993.

c) Department elections took place on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Chris LaGraves was elected Fire Chief, and all other department positions have been filled as well. Chief LaGraves mentioned that he is holding an officer's meeting to let the department members know what is expected of them and the direction he is taking with the department. He also mentioned the department radios have been re-programmed as some of the scanner channels have been moved. A new battery was purchased for truck number three in the amount of \$390.00. Truck number seven has needed new leaf springs for some time and the Board had previously approved this work to be done by Jim Johnson. Mr. Johnson is no longer able to do the work. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to have the repairs to truck number seven done at Melanson's Repair. Supervisor Gajewski asked Chief LaGraves if he is aware of the money available from the state for training, and Chief LaGraves said that yes he is. Chief LaGraves also reported that the fire hall and trucks have been cleaned and re-organized.

The Chief asked the Boards permission to take the trucks to his place of employment for the regular oil changes. This is fine with the Board. The department will be applying for a FEMA grant to replace some of the older equipment. Chief LaGraves reported there is a problem with the overhead door openers and he has a couple of ideas he would like to try before we call someone in to fix them.

**d)** Randall Brothers has completed work on the fire hall heating system and it seems the problems have been corrected.

**e)** Chief LaGraves stopped in at Stainless & Repair to check on the progress of the new rescue rig. Next week the truck will be painted. Chief LaGraves went over the truck specs with Stainless and Repair and found a few glitches that have been worked out. Stainless and Repair have asked to use the truck at a Fire Chief's convention in Milwaukee the end of January. The truck will be covered by Stainless and Repairs liability insurance while at the convention and until it is in our possession. The Board gave their permission for the truck to be used at that convention. The Chief will be doing the final inspection of the truck as soon as it is ready.

**f)** The Board mentioned that they would like to have a skating rink ready for the upcoming Winter Fun Day. Chief LaGraves said they will flood the rink as soon as the weather is cold enough for ice.

**g)** The exterior lights on the north side of the building are not working; Supervisor Gajewski has called Rick Flesvig.

**RECYCLING:** **a)** Nothing to report.

**HALL:** **a)** Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that the sinks in the maintenance room are not in good shape and maybe a lower floor sink would be easier and of more use for the hall custodians. The plumbing for the sink might need to be updated also. The Board directed Supervisor Gajewski to get quotes for this work.

**b)** The wiring for the sewer system is not completed. This was a discussed under Outstanding Bills.

**c)** Leon Forstrom has completed work on the shelving in the downstairs office/storeroom.

**d)** Leon Forstrom and Paul Dunaiski have painted the stage area.

**PARK:** **a)** The monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report as completed by Supervisor Gajewski shows no hazards and the cemetery, parks, fields, and township grounds are found to be in good condition.

**b)** A new playground blue whale will be ordered to replace the one vandalized.

**c)** Four picnic tables were moved from the pavilion down the hill against the fenced area of the fields. Leon Forstrom and Paul Dunaiski have moved the tables back to the pavilion.

**CEMETERY:** **a)** Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that Christmas wreaths have been placed on the entry gates to the township cemetery. The decorations are appreciated.

**COMMITTEES:** **a)** Supervisor Welsh reported from the Solway Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee meeting regarding Hawkinson Construction / Coon's Aggregate conditional use application. Hawkinson Construction has been getting 45-day over the counter permits for their public works jobs. With a permanent permit, they would not have to re-apply for the 45-day permits. A concern of the Town Board is that a conditional use permit remains with the property, and new owners might not be as responsible as Hawkinson. With some jobs, the

lead time needed to get the permit puts the start of the job later than required by the job contract. Most portable plants usually run a week to eleven days. Hawkinson Construction can apply for a two-year permit that could be reviewed by the county. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to adopt the findings of the Planning and Zoning Committee and recommend denial of a permanent hot mix plant, but that 45-day or a two-year permit are found acceptable and more in compliance with Solway's Conditional Use Plan.

**b)** It was mentioned to the Clerk that in the Township's Comprehensive Land Use Plan it states to pay mileage for a representative to attend the County Planning Committee meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS:** a) None

**NEW BUSINESS:** a) The Deputy Clerk has questions for the board regarding rummage sales at the town hall. The Board is fine with private household sales, but not to allow a "flea market" type of sale at the hall.

MOTION by Supervisor Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.