

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 Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written and distributed from the January 13, 2015 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the following Treasurer's reports dated December 31, 2014 and January 31, 2015.

December 31, 2014:

Checking:15107-15156		
Beginning Balance	\$285,188.26	
Receipts	136,875.87	
Disbursements	\$-11,972.31	
Ending Balance	<u>\$410,091.82</u>	\$410,091.82
 Money Market		
Beginning Balance	\$108,592.52	
Interest/Deposits	\$27.37	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$108,619.89</u>	<u>\$108,619.89</u>
Total Accounts		\$518,711.71

January 31, 2015:

Checking:15157-15212		
Beginning Balance	\$410,091.82	
Receipts	39,757.54	
Disbursements	\$-59,121.05	
Ending Balance	<u>\$390,546.31</u>	\$390,546.31
 Money Market		
Beginning Balance	\$108,619.89	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$108,619.89</u>	<u>\$108,619.89</u>
Total Accounts		\$499,166.20

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

1/22 Land Stewardship Project – Informational letter urging Township Officials to call legislators regarding local control and township rights concerning control of large-scale livestock operations. The Clerk will contact Minnesota Association of Townships to ask if this is an issue the Board needs to be concerned about.

1/27 Country Trucking – Completed Aggregate Tax form.

2/4 Minnesota Association of Townships Agency - Insurance endorsement for new fire truck. No Board action

2/6 South Ridge PTSO – Letter asking for a donation to help fund a scholarship program. The Board agreed not to donate to this school as it is not within our Township.

2/6 St. Louis County Auditor's Office – Informational letter and Automark and M-100 Discs for Township Election. No board action.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: The Treasurer has six additional bills. Five to the following Firefighters: Chris LaGraves in the amount of \$110; Alex Caturia in the amount of \$22; Nick Priolo in the amount of \$44; Bob Priolo in the amount of \$44; Jeff Nelson in the amount of \$44 for flooding the ice rink. One for damage deposit refund to Chris LaGraves in the amount of \$25 for a hall rental deposit refund.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to pay all outstanding bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list and the additional bills presented by the Treasurer in the amount of \$99,903.22.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Supervisor Gajewski reported that the family of Valeria Witte had requested memorial donations in her honor be given to the township. Approximately \$1,800 has been received. The Board discussed several options for this memorial including park benches, planting trees, 4-H scholarship. The Board will bring this to the electorate at the annual meeting in March to get more ideas. We will meet with family representatives to arrive at a final consensus.

b) Gerry Hansen from North State Services, who is our current garbage service appeared before the Board with a quote for service. The Town Board received a quote from North Country Waste & Recycling in Cloquet. We shared this information with North State Services to give them an opportunity to put in a competitive quote. Mr. Hansen's quote is \$108.91 a month. They have been our garbage service for two years and have never raised their rates. The Town Board is very satisfied with their service. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to stay with North State Service for garbage collection.

c) Township resident Butch Lund addressed the Town Board regarding the Gold-winged Warbler. Because it's nesting grounds have been shrinking, this bird has experienced one of the steepest declines of any North American songbird. Mr. Lund mentioned that there are 50/50 match grants available from the Federal Government. The Board will try to get more information and discuss at a future meeting.

ROAD: a) The Clerk has developed a application for driveway culverts on township roads. Part of the process would be to have someone inspect the culvert after it has been installed before the Board would refund the applicant's deposit. Another question is what process to take if the landowner is not compliant. The Board will continue to gather information and discuss at the next meeting.

b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he was contacted by St. Louis County Public Works letting him know there was water over the Mettsa Road. Supervisor Gajewski had the county steam the culvert on January 21st to help with water flow.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: a) Fire Chief Chris LaGraves reported for the department that there have been 25 calls year-to-date. There is one new member.

b) The ISO inspection is completed, but there is no word on the Department's rating yet.

c) Chief LaGraves has not heard on the FEMA grant applied for to purchase updated equipment.

d) Rescue truck #5 has been delivered and has been on four calls already.

e) The Board extended a thank you to the Fire Department for flooding the ice rink.

f) New contract for services and fire hall lease have been signed.

g) Fire Chief LaGraves has a quote of \$970 to install outside antenna's for the overhead doors on the six bays at the fire hall. The remote controls have not been working properly and Overhead Door Company feels it is an issue with the antennas. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to allow Chief LaGraves to set up with Overhead Door Company a time to install new outdoor antennas.

h) The Department is still researching UTV's to gain access to remote areas.

Chief LaGraves mentioned the need for an additional water supply for firefighting. Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that at one time the Department and the Town Board was looking into an underground water storage at the town hall grounds. Grand Lake Fire Department has one and Chief LaGraves will contact their chief for any information.

Chief LaGraves has confirmed the dates on the SCBA tanks and found there is no need to replace any tanks at this time.

At the time Stainless and Repair delivered the new Rescue #5 truck, they fixed a ground wire issue on truck #2.

RECYCLING: a) All cans brought into the recycling shed must be put in the recycling bins for collection. There can no longer be any bags of cans stored at the shed. Per WLSSD directives.

HALL: a) Supervisor Gajewski has quote from Brad Peterson and Kelsey Dunaiski to install a new janitor sink and faucet in the Janitors room. The sink will be approximately \$250.00 and the faucet about \$176.00. The quote for the labor is \$320.00. This is less than the dollar amount the Board approved at the January Town Board Meeting. Supervisor Gajewski will be in contact with Mr. Peterson and Mr. Dunaiski to set up a time to install the new sink and faucet.

b) Supervisor Gajewski contacted Rick Flesvig on February 5th to have him look at the parking lot and hall exterior lighting. Supervisor Gajewski has not heard back from Mr. Flesvig.

c) The old hall exterior doors have been installed downstairs and refinished.

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) The blue whale playground ride has been ordered and should be delivered this spring.

c) Paul Dunaiski is now working as the skating rink attendant.

CEMETERY: a) Paul Dunaiski is working with the Clerk to update the cemetery map.

COMMITTEES: a) The notes from St. Louis County Planning Commission hearing regarding a Conditional Use permit for Coon's Aggregate for a hot mix plant operation showed it was passed for a permanent hot mix plant.

b) The Winter Fund Day was a success.

OLD BUSINESS: a) Nothing under old business.

NEW BUSINESS: a) The Minnesota Association of Townships short course will be held at the Black Bear convention center on April 3rd, and in Grand Rapids on April 2nd. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously allowing Town Board members to attend one of the sessions at township expense.

b) The Minnesota Association of Townships Legal Seminar is planned for April 23, 2015 in Otsego, Minnesota.

c) The Board of Supervisors audited the Clerk's and Treasurer's books and found them to be in order.

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 8:50PM.