

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2012

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, two concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried to approve the minutes as written and distributed from the January 10, 2012 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to approve the minutes as written and distributed from the Special Meeting February 2, 2012. This meeting was requested by Mr. Fred Corrigan (Aggregate and Ready Mix Association Executive Director) and Minnesota Association of Townships Attorney Kent Sulem. This meeting was an exchange of information. Mr. Corrigan misunderstood parts of the Aggregate Tax law as to the Township's obligation for spending the tax money.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to accept the following Final Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2011.

Checking 13318 - 13361

Beginning Balance	\$164,974.13	
Receipts	\$161,627.80	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$-22,021.46	
Ending Balance	<u>\$304,580.47</u>	\$304,580.47

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 108,273.63	
Interest/Deposits	\$00	
Withdrawals	\$00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$108,273.63</u>	\$108,273.63

Total Accounts \$412,854.10

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated January 31, 2011.

Checking 13362 - 13410

Beginning Balance	\$304,580.47	
Receipts	\$18,010.38	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$-68,142.61	
Ending Balance	<u>\$245,448.24</u>	\$254,448.24

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 108,273.63	
Interest/Deposits	\$00	
Withdrawals	\$00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$108,273.63</u>	\$108,273.63

Total Accounts \$362,721.87

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

1/16 Land Stewardship Project - Informational letter promoting township rights. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to send a response to the Land Stewardship Project Committee indicating that the township supports their efforts.

1/27 Township Assessor Jan Jackson - Certificate of liability insurance. No board action.

1/27 MN Assoc of Townships Agency – Insurance coverage endorsement for new fire truck. No board action.

2/1 Minnesota Revenue – Report of Aggregate Tax collected form. The Clerk will complete the form and return it to Minnesota Revenue.

2/2 St. Louis County Public Works - Solway Sign Inspection Form with sign installation dates and sign material type added by St. Louis County Public Works Department. The county has filled in the installation dates and face material for signs where the Town Board did not have the information.

2/10 St Louis County Assessor's office - Notice of Board of Appeal & Equalization training and meeting scheduled for Solway Township. The tentative date is Thursday April 26, 2012 at 5:00 PM.

2/10 Local Assessor's in St. Louis County- Letter regarding the County Commissioner's meeting with the "blue ribbon panel" appointed by the St. Louis County Commissioners, where it was discussed to no longer allow independent local assessors in St. Louis County. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to write a letter to Commissioner Peg Sweeney explaining that the Solway Town Board is in favor of townships having the option to hire an independent assessor.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh, and carried to pay all outstanding bills in the amount of \$7,167.07 as listed on the Outstanding Bills list.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) None

ROAD: a) The Board reviewed the Township Sign Maintenance and Inspection Form received from St. Louis County Public Works. The county has filled in the installation dates and face material for some of the signs. This was addressed under correspondence.

FIRE: a) Assistant Fire Chief Al Mitchell reported the Fire Department had 13 calls year-to-date. The Department has had two medical calls in the Township, and one mutual aid fire at East Brevator so far this month.

Assistant Chief Mitchell reported that the Department has quotes for painting, lighting and adding storage compartments to the new truck from Enbridge. This work is needed to turn the truck into a grass fire fighting vehicle. The Department would like to use Stainless & Repair because of the excellent job they did with the truck that was purchased last year. The firefighters would like to have the truck fitted with stainless steel compartments to carry the medical and extraction equipment. They have an estimate of eleven to fourteen thousand from Stainless and Repair for this work. They are still exploring other options.

The Department has ordered 22 new portable radios and seven truck radios to comply with the new radio transmission settings. These will be obtained through a grant from St. Louis County.

There are generators available through the DNR to use at the town hall and fire hall in case of an emergency. Electrical work is needed at the town hall and fire hall in order to use the generator in the event of a power outage. Supervisor Gajewski has an estimate in the amount of \$6,900 for this work. Because of the large dollar amount of this project the town board would like to bring this issue to the electorate at the annual meeting. The Clerk will add this as an agenda item for the Annual Meeting on March 13, 2012.

At the January Town Board meeting, the Town Board and the Fire Department has discussed adding another overhead door to the fire hall. This door would be on the opposite wall to the present overhead doors, allowing for a "drive through" bay. Supervisor Gajewski has researched this and found that the building and foundation will not support adding another overhead door.

RECYCLING: a) Nothing to report.

HALL: a) The Clerk has received a request from someone wanting to rent the hall and asking to allow about ten overnight campers. The board discussed that the hall rental regulations call for the hall to be vacated by 1:00 AM. The Town Board will not allow overnight rentals.

b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that Midway Township is researching a "blanket" insurance for hall rentals serving alcohol carried by the township. Solway's rental policy states that any party with alcohol must show a certificate of insurance covering the night of the party. Midway is working with the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Agency and will keep us posted.

c) Veronica Childers has asked for an additional shelf in the hall supply storage closet. Leon Forstrom will work with Veronica to get this completed.

d) Treasurer Moe is looking into new blinds for the upstairs windows in the hall.

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

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

b) Supervisor Gajewski has obtained an estimate from Shelton Excavating in the amount of \$8,345.00 to add fill to level the low areas in the cemetery and to extend the driveway in the cemetery. The Board would like to add this to the Annual Meeting agenda to be discussed by the electorate. The Clerk will add this item to the Annual Meeting agenda.

COMMITTEES: a) Approximately 150 people attended the Special Events Committee Winter Fun Day on January 28th.

OLD BUSINESS: a) There are no nominations for the Solway Citizen of the Year.

NEW BUSINESS: a) Supervisor Gajewski reported from the Duluth Area Township meeting that Midway Township Supervisor Earl Elde brought forth a resolution opposing Proctor's annexation of approximately 60-acres in Midway Township. DAT did pass the resolution.

b) Lobby Day is February 29th. It is in conjunction with St. Louis County Days at the capital. There could possibly be a bus from the County Association of Townships. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to allow any Town Board member that wishes, attend Lobby Days at the state capital at township expense.

c) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he has been asked by NATaT president Jim Fisher to attend a meeting with legislators in Washington D.C. on March 28 & 29, 2012. This will be an overnight trip that some of the Minnesota Association of Townships Directors will also be attending. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to allow Supervisor Gajewski attend the legislative meeting in Washington D.C. on March 28 & 29, 2012 and if Supervisor Gajewski does not get paid by NATaT or MAT, the Township pay him his regular wage to attend this meeting.

d) Supervisor Gajewski reported from the County Association of Townships meeting that Canosia Township has posted "No Guns Allowed" at the Town Hall building which has resulted in a citizen taking the issue to court. The posting was supported by MAT attorneys and this will become a test case to determine if townships have the same rights as other municipalities to do this.

e) Supervisor Gajewski informed the Board that Lakewood Township is having an issue with "short term" rentals. These are houses that have been on the market for a long time and now are rented out as a party house for the weekend.

BOARD OF AUDIT: Upon completion of the regular agenda items, the Board of Supervisors met to review the Treasurer's and Clerk's books. The Clerk's and Treasurer's list of Receipts and Disbursements were reviewed by the Supervisors. Several claims were picked at random to review and compared to the bank statements. No discrepancies were found. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried that the Treasurer's and Clerk's books were found to be in order.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.