

# Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2011

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, eleven concerned citizens, and Jim Kallestad from Wells Fargo Bank.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to approve the minutes as written from the January 11, 2011 Town Board Meeting.

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

## Checking 12783 - 12833

Beginning Balance	\$308,020.12	
Receipts	\$89,225.56	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$-29,579.78	
Ending Balance	<u>\$367,665.90</u>	\$367,665.90

## Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$18,119.60	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$18,119.60</u>	\$18,119.60

## Total Accounts

**\$385,785.50**

## INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

**1/17 Land Stewardship Project** - Informational letter encouraging the Town Board to contact state legislators to let them know the importance of strong local government. No board action.

**11/18 Minnesota Association of Townships Agency** - VIA email - Confirmation of insurance coverage for new fire truck. No board action.

**1/22 Jim Kallestad, Wells Fargo** - Information and rates for Certificates of Deposit. Mr. Kallestad is here to review this information with the Town Board.

**1/31 St. Louis County Auditor's Office** - The Township must levy \$74,215 for the Road Fund for taxes payable in 2012 in order to receive gas tax money. The board will levy above this amount to insure the township receives gas tax money.

**2/2 Minnesota Revenue Minerals Tax Office** - Aggregate Tax report. The clerk will fill out this form and return it to the state.

**2/4 Qwest** - Construction season information. No board action.

**2/4 Cloquet Area Fire District** - CAFD is holding a meeting at the Perch Lake Fire Hall regarding their ambulance service. Solway Township is not a part of the Cloquet Area Fire District. Gold Cross Ambulance responds to Solway Township calls. There is a County Association of Townships Meeting on the same night. The Town Clerk will attend the CAFD meeting.

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**2/8 Duluth News Tribune** - Affidavit of Publication for Public Accuracy Test scheduled for Feb 14, 2011.

## **OUTSTANDING BILLS:**

The Treasurer has the following bills in addition to those listed on the Claims List for Approval: \$90 to Alan Mitchell for ice rink maintenance; \$6,505.66 to St. Louis County Public Works for one half year of snowplowing; \$64.03 to Maney International for air filters for fire engine #1 and #6; \$1,127 for work on fire trucks #4 and #3 to Equipment Specialists; \$40,000 to Solway Volunteer Fire Department for their yearly contract with the Township; \$105.00 to St. Louis County Association of Township Officers for the bus to Lobby Day at the State Capitol; \$10,867.00 to Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust for the Township insurance package. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund, and carried to pay all outstanding bills as presented by the Town Treasurer.

## **CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Adoption of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.**

John Powers from Applied Insights North explained that he has been guiding the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee through the process of updating the Township's Land Use Plan. He also explained St. Louis County no longer adopts township plans. The County will still consider the plan when there is a Conditional Use or Variance permit request. The plan still gives the township input to argue for or against any changes. Supervisor Gajewski has a few minor corrections to the plan. Some of the committee members were present at tonight's meeting with no additional comments or questions. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adopt the updated Comprehensive Land Use Plan for Solway Township with the above corrections.

**b) David Cardinal and Brad Kolenda addressed the Board regarding a Conditional Use Permit application and a Request for a Variance application for their business, Rocky Run Storage at 6128 Highway #2. There is presently one building on the site. Mr. Kolenda and Mr. Cardinal purchased the property with a Conditional Use that allows for three buildings on the property. When they wanted to construct an additional building they found out that the original building was constructed ten feet from the property line where a 50-foot setback is required. The building is 90-feet from the highway center line where a 110-foot setback is required. Mr. Kolenda and Mr. Cardinal have contacted the state and they are OK with the 90-foot setback. The applicants have contacted the neighbors to try to purchase or trade enough property to make the building in compliance. The neighbors do not have enough highway frontage to allow them to sell any and still be in compliance with zoning. The variance is needed for the building that is presently on the property, and the Conditional Use Permit needs to be revised as it states that all buildings on the site must abide by the 50-foot setback. The previous owner did not place the building 50-feet from the property line making a revised permit necessary. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to support the Conditional Use and Variance permit applications from David Cardinal and Brad Kolenda for Rocky Run Storage at 6128 Highway #2. The Town Clerk will notify the St. Louis county Planning Department that the Town Board is in favor of granting these two permits.**

**c) Mr. Jim Kallestad discussed with the Town Board the interest rates for Certificates of Deposit with Wells Fargo, and the interest and penalties involved with early withdrawals. The**

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money invested could be put into several smaller CD's and "layered" so they would mature at different dates. This would allow the Township to cash in a smaller CD if needed and not pay as high of a penalty as with a CD of a higher amount. The penalty amounts to six months interest on the CD. The board is undecided if this is a good idea and will table this issue until the Budget Meeting scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**d)** The Board has received two nominations for the Solway Citizen of the Year. William Peterson who died in 2010, and Larry Shelton. Mr. Peterson and his family have donated the property for the Township Cemetery. The Board discussed a memorial for Mr. Peterson at the cemetery. The Board would like this issue to be an agenda item at the annual meeting to get some ideas from the electorate. The Board read the letter nominating Mr. Shelton. He has given a great deal of money and time to Solway Township and area schools. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to select Larry Shelton as Solway Citizen of the Year. The Clerk will notify Larry Shelton of his award.

**ROAD: a)** The Town Board would like to purchase a rechargeable battery powered grease gun for use on the roadside mower and other township equipment. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to spend up to \$250 to purchase a rechargeable battery powered grease gun. Leon Forstrom will look at Northern Equipment for one.

**b)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that he was contacted by Chris Morin whose home was damaged by a motorcycle during an accident where the motorcycle ran off of Maple Grove Road and ran into her house. This accident involved a fatality and is now going to court. Chris is wondering if there was any work or improvements done on the road after the accident. Supervisor Gajewski reported to her that the improvements and work done by St. Louis County to the Maple Grove Road were completed prior to the accident.

**c)** Supervisor Gajewski reported from the Duluth Area Townships Meeting that some Townships are dissatisfied with the snowplowing done by the county and also the cost to the townships. At the County Association of Townships Meeting, County Commissioner Peg Sweeney explained that the priorities for snowplowing are first, the county roads; second, the paved township roads; third, gravel townships roads; then fourth private driveways.

**FIRE: a)** Jeff Nelson reported for the Fire Department that there have been eight calls year-to-date, three in January and five in February. The Department now has 21 members.

**b)** The Department still hopes to get a donated truck from Enbridge Company. They are waiting to hear when the donated truck will be available.

**c)** If the Department gets a truck donated from Enbridge, it will need to have a pump and tank added, and other work to make it into a grass fire fighting truck.

**d)** The new truck purchased with a FEMA grant has been delivered and put in use. The wrong hose was on the hose reel and a new one is on order.

**e)** Jim Johnson reported that the repairs on truck #4 are completed. There is a possibility that the main rear seal is starting to leak. The work on Truck #3 master cylinder is 90% complete. The power steering pump on truck #3 might be leaking. The oil changes are complete.

**f)** Truck #2 is out of the fire hall. It has been donated to the South St. Louis County Fair Board for use at the fairgrounds.

**g)** The Fire Department will apply for a FEMA grant this year to replace truck #3 with another tanker.

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**h)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that other Fire Departments are charging for fire calls and is wondering if this is something the Solway Fire Department should consider. The Fire Department will discuss this at their Board meeting.

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

**HALL:** **a)** The Town Clerk reported that one of the new tables that were ordered arrived damaged. She will contact the company where they were ordered for a replacement.

**b)** Township resident Heidi Hanson is asking to use the hall overnight for a girls party. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to allow Heidi Hanson to use the hall overnight with proper proof of liability insurance.

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

**b)** The skating rink has been recently flooded and is in good shape.

**CEMETERY:** **a)** There was one burial, Art Luoma on January 17, 2011.

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

**COMMITTEES:** **a)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that the Alliance of City Townships and Schools will meet quarterly beginning in 2011. Supervisor Gajewski also reported from the Duluth Area Townships meeting that the county snowplowing was discussed as reported under Road. Three candidates for the District 5B Special Election spoke at the St Louis County Association of Townships meeting. Attorney Tim Strom also spoke at the County Association meeting regarding Cartways.

**b)** The special Events Committee will hold the Winter Fun Day on January 29, 2011. The Fire Department will run the Bingo at the Fun Day. The Special Events Committee discussed holding a National Night Out in lieu of a Fall Fun Day. This will be put on the agenda for the Annual Meeting to get input from the electorate.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **a)** An aggregate tax audit of Mahnke Trucking was completed by Don Walsh. Mahnke Trucking mostly hires out their trucks and their aggregate tax paid was accurate.

**b)** Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that a Sheriff's Department representative will be at the Annual Meeting. At that time we can ask if the Sheriff's Department would like to have an office/station at the town hall.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **a)** The St. Louis County Association of Townships has reserved a bus for St. Louis County Lobby Days at the state capitol. The cost will be \$35 per person. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to allow any Town Board member who would like be allowed to attend Lobby Days at the state capitol at township expense.

**b)** The Town Clerk announced that the Minnesota Association of Townships Short Course will be held April 1, 2011 at the Black Bear Convention Center. The Board has tabled this issue until the March meeting.

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c) Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that while he was at the Duluth Area Townships meeting other townships mentioned that the Treasurer signs the Town Board meeting minutes as they contain the Treasurer's report. The Clerk contacted Minnesota Association of Township attorney Kent Sulem, and he said he has never heard of this and there is no requirement or state statute that requires this should be done.

c) Supervisor Gajewski reported that it was mentioned at the Duluth Area Townships meeting that sometimes St. Louis County Planning and Zoning is not recording Conditional Use Permits on properties. The Board will try to remind applicants that come before the Town Board to make sure this is done.

**Board of Audit:** MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried that the Town Clerk's and Treasurer's books where audited by the Supervisors and found to be in order.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the Board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.