

## MARCH 13, 2012 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2012 annual meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Regena L. Merritt, at the Solway Town Hall at 8:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for township residents who have died this past year. Also present were Treasurer Cindy Moe, Chairperson Clare R. Stromlund and Supervisors Scott Welsh and Ron Gajewski to help answer questions and explain agenda items for tonight's meeting. St. Louis County Commissioner Peg Sweeney was in attendance. There were eight citizens present also Larry Shelton and Ted Peterson representing Proctor School District and Sheriff's Deputy Pat Olson to report on the calls within the Township and to address citizen's concerns. There was no Solway Citizen of the Year Award, as there were no nominations received by the Town Board.

The Clerk then called for nominations for a moderator for tonight's meeting. **A MOTION was made by Clare Stromlund, seconded by Cindy Moe, and carried to name Cindy Welsh as moderator for tonight's meeting.** As there were no other nominations, Cindy Welsh was named moderator for the meeting. The Clerk called for a five-minute recess to go over the Annual Meeting Agenda with Mrs. Welsh.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:50PM.

St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Pat Olson was introduced and gave a report on the calls for Solway Township as follows:

- 7 Assault
- 9 Burglaries
- 6 Criminal damage to property
- 1 Drug incident
- 24 Permits to carry a handgun
- 9 General disturbance
- 5 Dog complaints
- 5 Financial transaction card fraud
- 28 Permits issued to purchase a handgun
- 8 Theft
- 43 Traffic stops
- 70 Misc calls

Total of 215 calls in Solway Township.

Officer Olson mentioned that there has been several recent property crimes along the St. Louis River Road. Sheriff Olson urged residents to call St. Louis County Sheriff's Department if they notice any suspicious activities. He also mentioned that if there is a road with heavy traffic or problem area, the Town Board can hire an extra patrol for that area. The county will charge the Township hourly for the extra patrol.

Officer Olson was asked if he thought a National Night Out was a good idea. He feels they are a good idea and told the Town Board to make sure to let the Sheriff's Department know early as they would like to attend to give a presentation.

Commissioner Peg Sweeney explained that Solway was still in the 5th District. She also mentioned that there is a grant available from St. Louis County for Fire Departments to purchase the new 8000 MHz radios they are required to get. As of next January all fire departments will change to this radio frequency as ordered by the state.

School Board Member Ted Peterson reported for the Proctor Schools. He explained that this is his 4<sup>th</sup> year on the School Board. The School District has sent representatives to the Town Annual Meetings to explain or answer any questions on the bond referendum they are asking the voters to pass. The referendum will be the same dollar amount to taxpayers as the one that is coming to an end in the near future. Mr. Peterson explained that part of Bayview was built in 1918. That part would be torn down and replaced with an addition with sixteen classrooms. The enrollment is stable at 1750 with approximately 135 to 150 kids per class. Because of open enrollment Proctor has students from Piedmont Heights after that elementary closed. There is Wi-Fi available on all the campuses, and the District is involved in the middle mile project for high speed internet access.

Mr. Peterson stated that if there are any questions or concerns that residents feel free to contact any Board Member.

Proctor DECA qualified for the National competition.

The moderator asked the electorate to review the minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting.

**MOTION was made by Joan Gajewski, seconded by Valarie Witte and carried to forego reading out loud the March 8, 2011 Annual Meeting minutes and to accept the March 8, 2011 minutes as written and distributed.**

The moderator asked if there were any questions regarding the Cash on Hand Report or the Summary of Receipts and Disbursements. The Moderator asked for a motion to forego reading out loud the Receipts and Disbursements Report, and to approve the Receipts and Disbursements for 2011. **A MOTION was made by Wayne Suliin, seconded by Leon Forstrom and carried to forego reading out loud the Receipts and Disbursements Report and to approve the 2011 report of Receipts and Disbursements as presented.**

**Road Report:** The Moderator asked if there were any questions on the Road Report. There were no questions or comments. **MOTION by Bonnie Siiro, seconded by Valeria Witte and carried to accept the 2011 Road Report as submitted.**

**Fire Department Report:** There were no questions or comments regarding the Fire Department Report. **MOTION by Cindy Moe, seconded by Mary Busch and carried to accept the 2011 Fire Report as submitted.** The Fire Department has presented a report of their own to be added to the Annual Meeting Information.

**Recycling Report:** There were no questions/comments regarding the Recycling Report. **MOTION made by Cindy Moe, seconded by Leon Forstrom and carried to accept the 2011 Recycling Report as submitted.**

**Hall Report:** There were no questions/comments regarding the Hall Report. **MOTION by Valeria Witte, seconded by Scott Welsh and carried to accept the 2011 Hall Report as submitted. MOTION by Joan Gajewski, seconded by Valeria Witte and carried to keep hall rental rate the same.**

Ron Gajewski mentioned that the Board is thinking about remodeling the upstairs bathroom. The floor tile is worn, and it is in need of painting. This would not raise the Levy, as there is

money budgeted for hall improvements. Scott Welsh mentioned the Board would like to use ceramic tile on the floor and half way up the walls to replace the plastic sheeting presently used as wainscoting on the walls. He feels it will cost about five-thousand dollars. Those present seemed to think this was a good idea.

**Park Report:** The moderator asked if there were any questions on the park report. There were none. **MOTION by Jim Lindquist, seconded by Leon Forstrom and carried to approve the 2011 Park Report as submitted.**

The 2011 **Aggregate Report** shows total receipts of \$152,892.77 with \$86,017.11 for Aggregate Tax collected this year. \$66,875.00 money paid back from the Fire Department on the money advanced on the fire truck that was paid for with FEMA grant monies. The disbursements total \$36,408.80.

In 2011 \$421.34 of the Aggregate Tax money was used to send Conditional Land Use Plan Meeting notices to Township residents; \$8,188 was used for legal services; \$2,296.16 was used for Town Hall capital improvements; \$25,025 was used for Jeffrey Road improvements; \$478.30 was used for Aggregate Tax Auditing.

Future projects to use Aggregate Tax money on would be matches for any grants obtained by the Fire Department, and to again provide property tax relief.

Cindy Welsh mentioned that the work done on the Jeffrey has made a huge improvement. The north end of the road is starting to deteriorate. The Town Board will look at this during the Annual Road Inspection in April.

**General Government Fund Report:** Supervisor Ron Gajewski mentioned that the DNR has generators available. The town Board is thinking it could be used to run power for the town hall building in case of an emergency power outage. There are many things involved to set this up. The electrical work would be \$3,000. Onsite fuel tanks would be needed. The Board is wondering if this is a worthwhile idea, or if there are any grants available to help with the cost. Fire Chief Suliin will do some research into grants available for this type of project.

**MOTION by Valeria Witte, seconded by Cindy Welsh and carried to accept the General Report as presented.**

After reviewing the Cemetery regulations, the electorate asked if the date that flowers/baskets are allowed could be changed from May 20<sup>th</sup>, to May 1<sup>st</sup> to allow more time before Memorial Day to decorate gravesites. The Board will make this change at the next Town Board Meeting.

Ron Gajewski mentioned the flagpole was installed this past summer. The Town Board is hoping to do other improvements such as trees, maybe a small patio with benches, extend the driveway into the cemetery, and level and raise the north end of the cemetery. The Board is looking for any suggestions from the electorate. Cindy Welsh mentioned that it would be nice to have water available at the cemetery.

**Proposed Levy:** The moderator asked if there are any questions regarding the proposed levy, hearing none the **Motion was made by Cindy Welsh seconded by Joan Gajewski and carried to approve a levy of \$286,245 for 2013.** The budget amount is \$313,550. In order not to raise the dollar amount of the 2013 levy, the town board will use \$27,305 from the Aggregate Tax Fund as property tax relief.

The 2013 Levy is as follows:

Road	90,750
Fire	95,000
Recycling	1,500
Hall	23,300
Park	9,500
General	93,550
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>313,550</b>
<b>Agg Tax</b>	<b>-27,305</b>
<b>Levy</b>	<b>286,245</b>

**Other business - Posting and Publishing sites:** The moderator asked if there were any questions or changes to the posting and publishing sites. There were none. **MOTION by Ron Gajewski, seconded by Clare Stromlund and carried to keep the same posting and publishing sites.** The posting sites and publishing newspapers will stay the same.

**Donations:** There are letters from the Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party Committee and The South St. Louis County Fair Board, each asking for a \$100.00 donation. Last year the electorate voted to add \$300.00 to the levy for donations in the amount of \$100 each to Proctor

Chem-Free Grad party, The South St. Louis County Fair, and the Proctor High DECA program. **A MOTION was made by Bonnie Siiro, seconded by Cindy Welsh and carried to donate \$100 each to the Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party, the South St. Louis County Fair Board and the Proctor DECA program.**

The Town Board would like to hold an appreciation dinner for the Solway Firefighters to include past members and Flamettes. **Motion by Cindy Welsh, seconded by Cindy Moe and carried to hold an appreciation dinner for the Solway firefighters, and to include past members and Flamettes.**

**Items from the Floor:** At the Annual Meeting in 2011 the electorate was in favor of a National Night Out Celebration. As the Event got closer there was not enough interest in the event. The Board would still like to hold the event if the electorate is in favor. **MOTION by Cindy Moe, seconded by Scott Welsh and carried to spend up to \$500 for a National Night Out event.**

**A MOTION was made by Clare Stromlund seconded by Leon Forstrom and carried to hold the 2013 Township Election Tuesday March 12, 2013 noon to 8:00 p.m. and the Annual Meeting March 12, 2013 at 8:30 pm.**

The Clerk announced the results of the election as 25 votes for Clare Stromlund. There were no write-in votes.

**A MOTION was made by Cindy Moe, seconded by Clare Stromlund and carried to adjourn our meeting at 10:20 P.M.**