

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

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written and distributed from the March 12, 2015 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the following Treasurer report dated March 31, 2015 as follows:

Checking:15258-15319		
Beginning Balance	\$291,655.99	
Receipts	2,229.00	
Disbursements	<u>\$-17,762.59</u>	
Ending Balance	\$276,122.40	\$276,122.40
Money Market		
Beginning Balance	\$108,619.89	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$108,619.89	<u>\$108,619.89</u>
Total Accounts		\$384,742.29

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

3/13 St Louis County – Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is scheduled for May 11th 5PM. The Clerk will post and publish this meeting.

3/17 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development - Public Hearing to be held April 17th regarding St. Louis County Draft Ordinance #62. No board action.

3/23 CenturyLink- Information regarding summer season roadwork. They are asking the Board to notify them prior to road construction work. No Board action.

3/27 Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (via email) - Notice of a mandatory meeting at Western Lake Superior Sanitary District for staff who work at the recycling sties. The Board asked Paul Dunaiski if he would be available to attend this meeting on May 19th. Paul is available to attend.

3/24 MN PERA- Confirmation of completed PERA report.

3/26 Office of State Auditor - Confirmation that Auditor has received 2014 CTAS Town reporting form.

4/6 Morin's Window and Siding- Recycle Shed window instillation & town hall gutter repair quote. This will be discussed under Hall and Recycling.

4/7 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development - Verizon Wireless Conditional Use application. The Solway Township Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee will meet on May 4th to discuss this application and report to the Town Board at the May Town Board Meeting.

4/10 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development - Notice of Planning Commission Public Hearing on the proposed draft of St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance #62 on April 16, 2015. No Board action.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: The Treasurer has four additional bills to the Outstanding Bills list as follows:

- A change in the reimbursement check to Regena Merritt from \$25 to \$42.25 for mileage.
- St. Louis County Public Works for steaming a culvert twice in February in the amount of \$617.90.
- \$295.31 to L & M Supply for bolts, washers and blade for the roadside mower.
- A hall rental deposit refund to Val Vegar in the amount of \$25.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh 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 \$18,258.40.

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, and he has met with the family to discuss different options. Approximately \$1,800 has been received. It was decided to use the money to develop a hiking/nature trail on Township grounds. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to begin to develop a nature/hiking trail on Township grounds with the money received as a memorial for Valeria Witte.

b) Chad Walsh appeared before the Board to introduce himself and explain to the Board that he is in the process of applying for a Conditional Use Permit at his business on Highway #2. Mr. Walsh has been working with Mark Johnson at St. Louis County Planning and Development. He plans to construct a 60' x 36' building for an indoor shooting range and gun shop. If the application is received at the County by May 1st, it will be heard at the Planning Commission meeting on June 11th. Fire Chief LaGraves asked Mr. Walsh what measures he would take for the storage of ammo. Chief LaGraves would like to meet with Mr. Walsh at a later date. Mr. Walsh stated the business would be open some evening hours and that some sort of sound suppression is planned for the shooting range. The Board set Thursday May 4th as a Solway Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting date if the permit is received before that date. The Clerk will set up the meeting and send letters to the committee members.

c) The Clerk has received a "Report of Town Clerk" for the renewal of the liquor license for Munger Tavern. This form is completed by the Clerk and sent to St. Louis County. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the request for renewal of the Munger Tavern liquor license.

ROAD: a) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he and Jim Lindquist met with property owners on the Mettsa Road where ice and water over the road has been a problem this past winter. The water seems to be coming from a geo thermal heat pump at the house. Property owners stated they would expand the pond that should be holding the water used for the heat pump.

b) Supervisor Gajewski shared information regarding the dollar amount a sub-contractor should carry for general liability when doing work for the township. There is a cap of two million for lawsuits. If a contractor was found liable while doing work for the township and the award was over the limit carried by the contractor, the Township could be liable above the insurance limits carried by the contractor. The Board discussed requesting two million in

general liability from contractors. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously that as of June 1, 2015 the board requests two million in general liability from all general roadwork contractors.

d) Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that the two big culverts on the Van Gassler Road are plugged with debris. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to have Jim Lindquist clean the two plugged culverts on the Van Gassler Road.

e) Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that the Town Hall parking lot is in need of crack sealing. The Board decided that we should take a look at it during the road inspection.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: **a)** Fire Chief Chris LaGraves reported for the department that there have been 39 calls year-to-date.

b) Chief LaGraves reported that the Fire Hall floor sealer is in disrepair. There are areas where the coating has peeled off and also items have been dropped on the floor causing damage. The floor is fifteen years old and nothing has been done to the floor since the initial coating. There are two representatives from Duluth Coating Solutions at the meeting tonight. This company has done other fire hall floors. They explained some of the different types of coatings available. It would take about three days to install, and 36 hours to cure, and is less slippery than the present coating. The lifespan on this coating is 15-20 years if maintained. The approximate cost is \$16,000. Duluth Coating Solutions will send quotes to be reviewed at the May Town Board Meeting.

c) The cistern pump at the Fire Hall needed to be pumped again. The Board will contact Shelton Excavating to investigate the problem.

d) Chief LaGraves has not heard on the FEMA Grant that was applied for to purchase updated equipment.

e) The Board asked the Clerk to inquire if there was any tax forfeited land available in the township where a water reservoir could be installed for use by the fire department. The Clerk checked on the county web site and found none.

f) The Department is still researching UTV's for access to remote areas, and has requested a donation from the CN Railroad to put towards a UTV.

g) The Board has asked the department to look into Firewise Grants to replace older type 911 signs. The Firewise Grants are a 50/50 match. The cost to the Township is more than the Board wants to spend.

h) EAM has completed work on Engine #6 and is now working on #1, and #2. The pump tests have been completed and all passed. Chief LaGraves is thinking of having someone from the Lake Superior College Firefighting Class to work as an Intern in the department.

RECYCLING: **a)** There is a mandatory meeting for recycling employees at Western Lake Superior Sanitary District on May 19th. The time has not yet been set. Paul Dunaiski said he will attend.

b) The Board has a quote of \$1111.50 from Morin's Siding and Window for an additional window in the recycling shed allowing the attendant to view the parking lot from the office in the recycling shed. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to have Morin's Siding and Windows install a window in the recycling shed for the amount of \$1111.50.

HALL: **a)** There were two broken storm windows in the hall that have been repaired.

b) Leon Forstrom installed an inline vent in the maintenance sink drain. This drain has been running slowly.

c) Supervisor Gajewski reported that one of the turbine roof vents on the Town Hall was found in the tennis court. Morin's Siding has covered the area in the roof where the vent was. The Board discussed that the other vents are most likely not in good shape either. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to spend \$200 a piece to replace the roof vents on the town hall.

d) The Board has a quote from Morin's to replace a bent gutter above the front entrance to the hall and to also re-slope and re-caulk the gutters above the side ramp entrance in the amount of \$252.50. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to have Morin's Window and Siding replace the bent gutter above the front entrance and to re-slope and re-caulk the gutter above the side ramp at the town hall for \$252.50.

e) The Board has noticed a large crack in the corner of the basement of the hall. The Board will take a look at it and decide what should be done at the May Town Board Meeting.

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 ride for the lower playground has been installed.

c) The Board discussed when to open the fields for use. It was agreed to open for soccer on May 1st, and for baseball next week.

CEMETERY: **a)** Supervisor Gajewski will pick up a new flag for the cemetery flagpole.

b) Leon Forstrom has re-painted the Veteran's Cross at the cemetery.

COMMITTEES: **a)** The Township Planning and zoning Advisory Committee will meet Monday May 4th to discuss the Conditional Use permit from Verizon wireless to put up an antenna tower on the corner of Maple Grove and Canosia Roads.

b) A tentative meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 7th to discuss the Conditional Use permit from Chad Walsh for an indoor shooting range and gun shop. This meeting will be held only if a copy of the permit is received from St. Louis County in time to send notices to Committee members. If not, the meeting will be scheduled later in May.

OLD BUSINESS: **a)** The newsletter went out to township residents.

b) Landscaping needs finishing where the new septic was installed. Supervisor Gajewski will contact Shelton Excavating to find out when this will be completed.

NEW BUSINESS: **a)** Terri Jensen, Regena Merritt, Cindy Moe, and Ron Gajewski will be attending the legal seminar held in Otsego, Minnesota put on by the Minnesota Association of Townships on April 23rd.

b) The Board members that attended the Minnesota Association of Townships spring short course agreed it was an informative and worthwhile training experience.

d) The Board discussed Board and Employee wages. It has been a few years since the Board has received an increase. Supervisor Welsh suggested all meetings be paid on an hourly basis. A dollar an hour increase for Board Members and Employees was suggested. MOTION by Stromlund seconded by Gajewski and carried, with Supervisor Welsh abstaining to increase the Employees and Board Members wage one dollar per hour. After some explanation from Supervisor Welsh, he made the MOTION which was seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to also pay for all meetings on an hourly basis.

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 9:15 PM.