

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes  
 June 14, 2011

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, and ten concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to approve the minutes as written and distributed from the May 10, 2011 Town Board Meeting.

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

Checking 12992 - 13039		
Beginning Balance	\$184,545.13	
Receipts	\$1,439.61	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$-40,004.50	
Ending Balance	<u>\$145,980.24</u>	\$145,980.24
Money Market		
Beginning Balance	\$108,122.82	
Interest/Deposits	\$37.71	
Withdrawals	00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$108,160.53</u>	\$108,160.53
Total Accounts		\$254,140.77

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**5/24 Cloquet Interiors** – Estimate to install carpeting on the ramp at the side entrance of Town Hall building. There is also a sample of the carpet for the board to review.

**5/25 Township Attorney John Bray** – Copy of Motion for Summary Judgment regarding Northland Bituminous lawsuit. No board action.

**5/28 St. Louis County Public Works** - Information on road dust control for this year. Supervisor Gajewski will address dust control under Road.

**5/27 Minnesota Association of Townships** - Summer Short course information.

**6/6 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** - Roadways and Turtle information. No board action.

**6/8 Brad Anderson dba Anderson Land Development.** - Roadside mowing and brushing information. The Clerk will file for future reference.

**6/9 North States Services** - Proposal for garbage service. This will be addressed under Hall.

**6/9 Todd Signs** - Quote for flag pole and plaque at cemetery. This will be addressed under Cemetery.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:**

Treasurer Moe as additional bills as follows:

- John Childers an additional \$215.97 for reimbursement.
- Three bills from Minnesota Power in the amounts of \$171.00, 245.00, and 363.00.
- Regena Merritt for reimbursement in the amount of \$348.53 for CLUP copies and postage.
- Leon Forstrom for reimbursement in the amount of \$491.59
- Como Lube in the amount of \$165.00 for roadside mower grease.
- Jim Lindquist in the amount of \$6,018.00 for roadwork/culvert replacement and grading.
- Dalco in the amount of \$140.78 for hall supplies.
- Ron Gajewski in the amount of \$125.00 for hall rental damage deposit refund.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski, and carried to pay all outstanding bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list along with the additional bills presented by the Town Treasurer.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:**

There are several Jeffrey Road residents at tonight's meeting with concerns about the condition of the Jeffrey Road especially from Maple Grove to Highway 2. Cindy Welsh spoke that in the 24 years she has lived here the road has not been in as poor condition. There are so many potholes that you cannot avoid them while driving. This road is used by gravel trucks coming from Sather's pit located at the end of the Jeffrey Road. In the summer months the truck traffic is pretty much constant on this road. Jeffrey Road resident Karen Flesvig agrees with Cindy Welsh and stated that because of the potholes the trucks are not able to move over for pedestrians on the road. Ms. Flesvig also mentioned that the sides of the road are caving in and washing the gravel over the road. Supervisor Scott Welsh lives on the Jeffrey Road and agreed that it is in the poorest condition since he has lived here. It was mentioned that the first 150 yards are a "minefield" to try to drive over. The road could become a liability for the township if there was an incident. Chris Morin left a message at the town office that the Jeffrey road is impassable.

This road was paved by the gravel pit owner about 50 years ago. Current pit owner Jim Sathers has filled potholes at the end of the road in the past. About five years ago the Town Board had KTM Paving put blacktop over the area close to the Maple Grove Road intersection and this has held up well. The Board feels there needs to be an immediate fix to make the road drivable and a long range plan to fix the problem.

The Board could have St. Louis County Public Works fill some of the holes. The Board could also call a blacktop company to see who can get out here the soonest to fill some of the potholes. The Board has had both KTM Paving and Sinnott Blacktop do blacktopping work for the township in the past and has been pleased with their work.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to immediately fill the potholes on the Jeffrey Road from Highway 2 to the end at the gravel pit entrance, and to have either St. Louis County Public Works, KTM Paving, or Sinnott Blacktop do the work depending not only on price, but who can get the job done in the timeliest manner.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to get quotes from KTM Paving and Sinnott Blacktop to do a larger section of repair and paving to Jeffrey Road and to bring their quotes to the July Board Meeting.

**ROAD: a)** The plugged culvert on a Sandberg Road driveway has been replaced because the bottom of the culvert was rusted out.

**b)** All of the work from the annual road inspection has been completed with the exception of the ditching on Sandberg Road. This should be completed by the end of July by Jim Lindquist. Mr. Lindquist also mentioned that there is a second culvert on the Tondryk that needs to be replaced. Jim Lindquist gave a quote of \$600 for this job. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to have Jim Lindquist replace the culvert on the Tondryk Road for \$600.

**c)** John Childers has completed the roadside mowing of all the township roads and will do it a second time as needed.

**d)** The Jeffrey Road complaints have been addressed under Citizens Concerns.

**e)** The hedge on the Heine Road has been cut down by the property owner. There are still maple trees standing in the hedge. The Clerk will notify the home owner that the trees need to be down also.

**f)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that he contacted Jake Demenge to have dust control applied to the township roads. Mr. Demenge explained that the township can no longer purchase the dust control through him. The township will need to order the dust control through the county at a cost of 65.9 cents per gallon. Supervisor Gajewski will call the county with our order and Mr. Demenge can get the ticket number of the order, pick it up and apply it to the township roads. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to order 7,500 gallons of dust control from St. Louis County at 65.9 cents per gallon and use Jake Demenge to apply it to the township roads.

**FIRE: a)** Jeff Nelson reported for the Fire Department that there have been 33 calls year-to-date. Calls since the last Town Board Meeting of May 10, 2011 include five medical and one fire related call.

Firefighter Nelson also reported that we will be needing a battery for truck #3 soon. The Enbridge truck is still on hold waiting for Enbridge to replace the trucks. Tim Bakken is retiring from the department after 15 years of service. The Department has applied for a grant from Essentia Health Care in the amount of \$550 for medical equipment.

**RECYCLING: a)** Shedkeeper Jim Miller reported that the attendance on Wednesday has increased.

**HALL: a)** The Board has received a quote and a sample of carpet from Cloquet Interiors to carpet the handicapped ramp on the side of the town hall in the amount of \$887.00. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to have Cloquet Interiors install carpet on the ramp at the side entrance to the town hall for \$887.00.

**b)** The town office has received a proposal for garbage service from North State Services. The company owner Jerry Hansen is present. His proposal is \$35.35 less than what we are presently paying to A-1. Mr. Hansen will supply us with the same size dumpster and two smaller carts to put in the park areas. He will also pick up the Fire Department garbage as A-1 has been doing. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to contract with North State Services for the amount of \$112.96 monthly to include a dumpster for the town hall

garbage, two carts for the park area and picking up the fire hall garbage. The Town Clerk will call A-1 to cancel their service as of June 30, 2011.

**c)** Supervisor Gajewski explained that four of the worst rental tables have been given to a township resident. This saved the township from having to get rid of them. The six new tables have been marked for upstairs use and the four oldest tables were moved to the furnace room. Supervisor Gajewski is wondering what to do with the old wooden tables in the hall. The Board decided to store them in the bus garage as they are no longer needed.

**d)** The Clerk reported that she spoke with Red-D-Electric and the three non working hall spotlights need igniter lamps. This should be less than \$100 dollars and Red-D is ordering them.

**PARK: a)** The hedge at the Munger School Site needs to be trimmed. Kerbie Merritt can do this the first week in July.

**b)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that the line painting machine for the fields is not working properly. Supervisor Gajewski does not want to wait for another Board Meeting to get permission to purchase a new one. He might have to go as long as four weeks without one if it breaks right after a board meeting. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried that if and when the line painting machine breaks Supervisor Gajewski has board permission to purchase a new one.

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

**CEMETERY: a)** Leon Forstrom will let the Clerk know if any dirt is needed at the cemetery.

**b)** There is a large ash tree at the cemetery that is dying. Supervisor Gajewski checked the tree out, and feels it needs trimming, but there's no need to take it down at this time.

**c)** Supervisor Gajewski has a quote from Todd Signs for a flag pole and plaque. The total is \$2,175.00 for flag pole, plaque and installation of both. The board would like to contact Joan Peterson to get clarification on how Bill Peterson's name should read. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to order the 4-inch flag pole and plaque with stand from Todd Signs for \$2,175.00 to include installation, and to get clarification on how William Peterson's name should read on the plaque before ordering. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to pay for the flag pole and plaque with the monies donated to the Cemetery Fund.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS: a)** Supervisor Gajewski gave an update from the Welsh Cartway Public Hearing. The Welsh's have a lawsuit filed against their title company and will use the funds gained from this lawsuit, if they are successful, to pay for the cartway. There is a continuation of the Public Hearing until the third week in March 2012 to give time for the Welsh's lawsuit to end. Ms Maki will keep the Town Board and Attorney Jeff Westermann updated as to any progress in the lawsuit.

Welsh's attorney Kimberly Maki and the board agree that the Welsh's should be billed for the expenses incurred by the township this far, giving the Welsh's 60 days from the date of the Public Hearing to pay the bill. The Clerk will prepare a bill and send it to Ms. Maki.

Chairperson Stromlund mentioned that he will not put any hours on his timesheet for the June 8<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing because he did not arrive until the end of the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** a). Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that a new flag is needed at the town hall. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to purchase a new flag for the town hall outside flag pole.

b) There is a Minnesota Association of Townships Short Course to be held June 30, 2011 at the Black Bear Convention Center. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried that any Town Board members who wish to attend the course are allowed to do so at Township expense.

c) With the closing of the gas station across from the town hall it has been difficult to fuel the lawn and roadside tractors. Leon Forstrom mentioned that Butch Lund has an oil tank that can be put at the Munger School Site garage. A pump can be purchased and the tractors can be filled at the garage. Presently Mr. Forstrom is filling up gas cans and then filling the mower and tractor. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh to pursue obtaining a tank and pump to serve as a filling station at the Munger School Site garage. The MOTION was amended by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to allow \$300 for the purchase of the oil tank and pump for the Munger School Site garage.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the Board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.