

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

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written and distributed from the August 19, 2014, Town Board Meeting.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the following Treasurer's report dated August 31, 2014.

**Checking: 14887-14951**

Beginning Balance	\$242,429.54	
Receipts	401.28	
Disbursements	<u>\$-28,377.77</u>	
Ending Balance	\$214,453.05	<b>\$214,453.05</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$ 108,574.37	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$108,574.37	<b><u>\$108,574.37</u></b>

**Total Accounts**

**\$323,027.42**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

8/25 MN Dept of Health - Drinking water report for the town hall shows the water is safe. No board action.

8/25 via email St. Louis County Public Works - Notification that the county will be doing blacktop patching for the Township on Jeffrey Road this coming week. No board action.

9/7 via email Canosia Township - Notice of ACTS meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** The Treasurer has an additional bill to be added to the Outstanding Bills list. It is to Perrault's Construction in the amount of \$7,175 for installation of the new entry doors at the town hall. 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 Town Treasurer for a total amount of \$21,772.58.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) Ayres Road residents Larry and Nancy Carlson appeared before the Board asking about a variance to build a modular home. This would be a second home on the property. They own 5 acres with 133-foot frontage where 1-acre with 150-foot frontage is required for a building. The Board informed them they need to apply for a variance at the county, and in turn the county will notify the Township of the variance application. The Township Planning and Zoning Committee will then meet and forward a recommendation to the Town Board who will also send a recommendation to the County. The Clerk mentioned to the Carlsons that their property might be in Grand Lake Township, but they felt they are located in Solway. While the Board was signing checks, the clerk looked up the location of Larry and Nancy Carlson's property and found it to be in Grand Lake Township.

- ROAD:**
- a) Ditching on the Bailey Road and South Mattson Road is completed.
  - b) Potholes on the Jeffrey Road have been filled with blacktop by St. Louis County.
  - c) A letter was sent to the property owners on the Heine Road that has a hedge in the Road right-of-way. The letter informed them that the hedge does need to be trimmed down for visibility.
  - d) Supervisor Gajewski received a call from a Peterson Road resident regarding a downed tree along the road. Supervisor Gajewski checked out the road and found that the tree was not yet down and not in the right of way. If the tree does fall it might end up in the right of way. The Board needs to make sure the tree is actually in the right of way before removing it.
  - e) Supervisor Gajewski has been checking with Minnesota Traffic Engineer Jim Miller regarding perimeter lighting on the "Stop" sign at Hwy #2 and Canosia Roads. The state engineer told Supervisor Gajewski that the intersection and related issues do not met state criteria to warrant putting the perimeter lighting on the stop sign.
  - f) Two "Minimum Maintenance" road signs and one "Dead End" have been ordered from St. Louis County.

- FIRE DEPARTMENT:**
- a) Firefighter Jeff Nelson reported there have been 59 calls year-to-date 14 of the calls were mutual aid. The Department is hiring two new members and interviewing one applicant this evening.
  - b) The Ford truck that has been purchased to be built as a Rescue rig has not yet arrived at Stainless and Repair.
  - c) There was an issue last month where one of Solway's Fire trucks was taken to a private event. After talking with Minnesota Association of Township's attorney Ken Sulem, we were informed that any private use of public property/equipment is forbidden by state statute. Firefighter Jeff Nelson will share this information with the rest of the Fire Department and make sure it is covered by their standard operating procedures.

- RECYCLING:**
- a) Jim Miller reported that Leon Forstrom patched a hole in one of the interior walls of the shed.

- HALL:**
- a) Supervisor Gajewski reported that the closure on the new front doors is not working correctly. Jim Broman took the closure off the door and back to Sell Hardware for replacement. The two side doors are working fine.
  - b) Shelton Excavating is waiting for the permit from the county to install the septic system at the town hall.
  - c) A new air conditioner has been purchased for the town hall office for \$119.
  - d) Supervisor Gajewski and Leon Forstrom plan to work on the landscaping in front of the hall as soon as possible.
  - e) Shelving in the downstairs office is on hold until the septic repairs are completed.
  - f) The Town office received a report from Minnesota Department of Health that the drinking water is safe.
  - g) Leon Forstrom painted the back steps of the town hall.
  - h) Chairperson Stromlund reported that he had been asked by someone at the Solway Sr. Citizen meeting about creating access to the side ramp by removing the handrail or making some type of gate that can be opened where it turns so a person does not have to walk the entire length of the ramp. The Clerk looked up the regulations for ramps through the American's With Disabilities Act and found that whatever part of the ramp that is more than 6 inches off the ground has to have a handrail. The Board will not make any changes to the handicapped accessible ramp.

**PARK:** a) Two footings around the lower playground need to be lowered. Larry Shelton mentioned that he could do this when he is at the hall for the septic system work.  
b) The monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report completed by Supervisor Gajewski shows no hazards and the cemetery, parks, fields and township grounds are found to be in good condition  
c) Repairs to the pavilion are completed.  
d) Leon Forstrom reported that Frank Siiro will be making new "HOME and VISITOR" signs for the baseball field.

**CEMETERY:** a) Leon Forstrom will be working on the north fence where some of the fill washed through the fencing causing it to be pulled from the top rail.  
b) One burial: Carol Anderson on August 26, 2014.  
c) Leon Forstrom and Paul Dunaiski filled in tire ruts left by the vault truck after a burial.

**COMMITTEES:** a) The Special Events Committee will meet September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM to plan the Halloween Carnival scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk will send reminders to committee members.

**OLD BUSINESS:** a) Supervisor Gajewski reported from the District 10 Meeting that he asked Kent Sulem if there is any statute regarding how often an Aggregate Tax Audit should take place. Kent explained that the Board needs to have an audit if they suspect a producer has underpaid, or not reported, but an audit does not need to be performed on a regular basis.

Supervisor Gajewski also mentioned that the AWAIR program might be an item at the next short course.

b) The Board discussed various newsletter items.

**NEW BUSINESS:** a) The Board discussed parking lot snow plowing for this coming winter and all agreed Keith Anderson did a great job last year. MOTION by Gajewski seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to hire Keith Anderson for snowplowing if their rates are the same as last years. The Clerk will contact Mr. Anderson to get the rates for this year.

MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.