

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2010

Chairperson Ron Gajewski 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 Supervisor Clare R. Stromlund, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and six concerned citizens.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to appoint Supervisor Welsh as Chairperson and Supervisor Stromlund as Vice-Chairperson for the coming year. Rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair occurs each year at the Reorganization meeting in March.

FIRE: As the Fire Department has another meeting tonight; the Town Board will hear their report first. Fire Department President Gordy Jensen is reporting on behalf of the department. President Jensen reported nine calls year-to-date and one call so far for the month of March. The truck committee is busy working on truck specifications for the new truck. President Jensen asked the board if the fire department has to abide by the municipal contracting laws. The Clerk will check with the township attorney and notify the fire department.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Andy Hubley from Arrowhead Regional Development Commission was asked by the Town Board to present a proposal at tonight's meeting for a Township Comprehensive Land Use Plan update. Mr. Hubley's plan proposes nine meetings with Solway's Planning Committee, in addition to two meetings to submit grant applications to MHP and RTAC. Total cost of their proposal is \$18,000. There is a grant available from Minnesota Housing Partnership in the amount of \$6,000 that ARDC feels Solway has a good chance of receiving. Solway may also receive \$8,000 worth of additional planning services from ARDC to complete a Transportation Action Plan in addition to the CLUP through the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Board also received a proposal from Mr. John Powers of Applied Insights North. Midway Township used Mr. Powers to develop their Comprehensive Land Use Plan and recommended him to Solway. Mr. Powers has a scheduling conflict and cannot be at tonight's meeting. Mr. Powers has over 30 years experience as a community and land use planner. He has submitted an estimate of \$7,500 with an additional \$2,500 if the township decides to send out a survey. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to ask Mr. Powers to appear at the next town board meeting to present his proposal.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2010 Town Board Meeting.

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MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated February 28, 2010.

Checking 12267-12307

Beginning Balance	\$211,459.28	
Receipts	\$9,996.81	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$42,752.30	
Ending Balance	\$178,703.79	\$178,703.79

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 113,599.06	
Interest/Deposits	\$34.86	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	\$113,633.92	\$113,633.92

Total Accounts **\$292,337.71**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

2/16/10 – St Louis County Assessor's Department –Tentative Date for the Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is Thursday April 29, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. at the Solway Town Hall.

2/17/10 - MN Benefit Association - Life insurance information for Township officials. This is not something the board is interested in at this time.

2/18/10 - MN Assoc of Township Agency – Township insurance renewal. The premium for this renewal is in the bill to be paid at this meeting.

2/19/10 – ARDC Regional Planning Commission is seeking to work with a township in northeast MN to develop an energy action plan. This is a pilot project. The board does not wish to participate in this program.

2/19/10 – WLSSD - Meeting announcement for March 11, 2010 to discuss the performance of their wastewater system and projected flows from their users. No board action.

2/24/10 - SLC Auditor's Office – Notification that the town must levy \$70,127 for the Road Fund in order to receive the state gas tax money.

2/24/10 - SLC Planning & Development – Notice that the St. Louis County Comprehensive Water Management Plan is available on the county's website.

3/4/10 - via email from Sarah Lerohl WLSSD – A request for a letter in support of a grant from MPCA to WLSSD to run a quarterly electronic waste pick-up at Solway. The board will send a letter in favor of WLSSD applying for the grant.

3/10/10 - MN Assoc of Townships - Request for an updated officer list. The Clerk will fill out the form and return it to MAT.

3/11/10 - Big Water Fire Apparatus (Steve Adamski) - Information and invoice. The board is questioning when this work was completed. The board instructed the clerk to contact the fire department to get the details and make sure the work is finished before paying the bill.

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3/16/10 - Northern Lakes Food Bank - Information and poster. The information will be put in the newsletter and the poster is displayed at the town hall.

3/16/10 - Admin Minnesota - Signed copy of purchasing agreement for our records. This agreement allows the Township to purchase supplies and equipment through the state purchasing program.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: The Treasurer has one additional bill in the amount of \$510.00 from Jim Lindquist for repairing Metsa Road after a washout. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to pay all outstanding bills as presented by the Treasurer.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Nothing to report.

ROAD: a) Supervisor Gajewski checked the Jeffrey and Van Gassler Roads for the perennial water problems and found they were none at this time.

Butch Lund mentioned that the "Dead End" sign on the Stonelake Road is missing. The board will check on this during the road inspection.

b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he received a phone call this morning telling him the Metsa Road was "washed out" and not passable. Supervisor Gajewski contacted Jim Lindquist who came out and repaired the road by installing a small temporary culvert. Supervisor Gajewski also called St. Louis County Public Works Department who met Supervisor Gajewski at the road and arranged to have the regular culvert steamed out. The Board will look at this area during the road inspection.

c) The Board has set the date of the annual road inspection for Friday April 30, 2010 at 9:00 p.m. to noon.

d) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he has checked with Public Works Director Ron Garden and was told that the policy of waiting for four-inches of snow before plowing is not working as there were too many problems with ice build-up. The policy of waiting for four-inches of snow will be changed and the county does not anticipate a problem this coming winter. Mr. Garden mentioned that some of the problems developed because of the type of snow that fell this past year. He was made aware of school buses getting stuck. The county will now be out plowing by 4:00 a.m.

RECYCLING: The Clerk was contacted by WLSSD asking to hold a Household Hazards Collection Day at Solway. WLSSD holds this type of collection at one recycling site per year. This operation will be held at Solway Wednesday July 21, 2010 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Township residents will be able to dispose of paint and paint thinner; rechargeable batteries; aerosol cans; cleaners & degreasers; weed killer & pesticides; fluorescent tubes. There will be no cost to the township or the residents who drop off items.

HALL: a) The Board would like the phone in the hall office to be a secure line and not accessible from the kitchens or warming shed. Butch Lund has submitted an estimate in the amount of \$120.00 to switch the telephone lines so

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the phone in the office is on its own line, and the phones in the kitchens, warming shed and recycling shed are on a different line. The phone line in the recycling shed is not working. This line will also be repaired. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to have Butch Lund secure the office line and add the recycling building and warming shed to the fire hall line. The Clerk and Mr. Lund will coordinate a time to complete this work.

b) The board would like to get a magazine/pamphlet rack on the wall by the town office for town business information. There is one available from Quill Office Supplies that will fit on the wall for \$140.00. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to purchase a magazine rack for the town hall from Quill not to exceed \$150.00.

c) At the Annual Meeting held March 9, 2010, the electorate directed the Town Board to not change the town hall rental policy allowing only residents to use the hall, and that it be free of charge once per year for each resident; that residents are able to use the hall for whatever lawful purpose they choose to include non-profit organization fundraisers; wedding rentals will get Friday and Saturday to use the hall; if a group needs both the upper and lower levels for their event, they may use it with no additional charge; and they may rent the hall for an immediate family member. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adopt these changes and incorporate them into the hall rental agreement.

PARK: **a)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that the soccer goal was hit while snowplowing the park for the Winter Fun Day and the welded joint is broke. Supervisor Gajewski will check with Rick Flesvig to see if he can repair it. The pitchers rubber on the baseball field mound needs to be replaced. There is one avail for \$75.00. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to order a new rubber for the pitcher's mound on the baseball field not to exceed \$80.00.

b) & c) The retaining wall at the small playground has been hit by the snowplow and needs to be repaired. Leon Forstrom will do the repair work. The paved areas are developing some cracks that might have to be filled this summer. Leon Forstrom reported that one of the "Fire Department Parking Only" signs is down, but he has the sign and will reinstall it. Leon Forstrom will clean up the downed tree branches in the hall and park areas. Supervisor Gajewski reported from his inspection there are no hazards at the park or the cemetery.

CEMETERY: **a)** As soon as the ground thaws, Leon Forstrom will fill the gravesites that are sinking.

b) The fence on the west side of the cemetery needs repair. Leon Forstrom will check the fence when the frost is out.

c) Chairperson 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 reported on the Duluth Fire Department ambulance issue. The Committee that was formed by the Duluth City Council has stated that Gold Cross is doing a good job and is opposed to the Duluth Fire Department taking over the ambulance service.

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The City of Superior Ambulance Task Force has come out in opposition to this plan stating that an ambulance service run by the city is not a viable option for taxpayers.

b) Deputy Sheriff Stably explained at the Annual Town Meeting that there are state laws regarding vicious dogs; dog bites; dogs at large; and nuisance dogs. Unless the township wants to be more restrictive as in a leash law or licensing dogs there is no reason for a dog ordinance. The Board has decided to look no further at a dog ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS: **a)** Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that after the fire at the Midway Town Hall we need to find out if the fire proof file in the town hall is actually "fire proof". The Clerk will contact someone from the Fire Department to evaluate our file.

b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that someone had dumped garbage behind the town hall. The school bus was parked in the hall parking lot at the time and took down a license plate number that he reported to Supervisor Gajewski. Supervisor Gajewski called Deputy Olson at the Sheriff's office and reported this information and was told the county will follow up with a warning letter or phone call to this person.

c) The board discussed raising the wages for township employees one dollar per hour for each position. The Town Board decided not to raise any board member wages. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried, to raise the township employee wages effective March 1, 2010 as follows:

- Groundskeeper from \$11.00 to \$12.00
- Groundskeeper Assistant from \$10.00 to \$11.00
- Rink Attendant from \$7.50 to \$8:50
- Recycling Shedkeeper from \$9.00 to \$10.00
- Election Judges from \$8.50 to \$9.50
- Annual Meeting moderator will remain at \$40.00

d) The Minnesota Association of Townships holds an Urban Short Course that some townships in our area attend and have recommended. This course is held in Otsego Minnesota. The board decided not to attend at this time as it would mean an overnight stay to arrive at the course by 8:00 a.m. and would cost more than the board is willing to spend.

e) The Clerk reported that the Board of Appeal and Equalization is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. The Clerk will post this meeting as soon as this date is confirmed.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.