

MARCH 9, 2010 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2010 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 Ron Gajewski, Supervisors Clare R. Stromlund and Scott Welsh to help answer questions and explain agenda items for tonight's meeting. There were 18 citizens present, St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Steve Stably, and Proctor School Board Member Larry Shelton.

Clerk Merritt introduced Supervisor Scott Welsh who then presented the Solway Citizen of the Year Award to Joan Gajewski. Supervisor Welsh mentioned that Mrs. Gajewski is a "behind the scenes" type of volunteer who belongs to many local organizations.

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

Officer Steve Stably from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls in Solway Township for 2009:

Assault	11
Burglary	4
Criminal Damage to Property	6
Drug Cases	7
General Disturbance	11
Domestic	5
Vehicle Accidents	13
Suspicious Persons	6
Thefts	37
DWI	8

Deputy Stably reported that there has been a rash of burglaries in the area that law enforcement agencies from Proctor, Cloquet, Carlton County, Douglas County and the City of Superior have been investigating.

There was a question from the floor regarding a "Dog Ordinance". Officer Stably reported that state ordinances are already in place for vicious dogs, dogs at large, and dog disturbances. The Township could have a Dog Ordinance if they wanted to be more specific or to have a Leash Law. Ron Gajewski asked if the Township passed an ordinance would they also need to enforce it. The County will enforce the state statutes, but the Township would need to have an animal enforcement agent. One resident commented that they had been attacked by a neighbor's dogs. She called the Sheriff's Department twice and was told there was nothing they could do. Officer Stably replied that the Sheriff's Office is responsible to respond to dog attacks, and that is who residents should call.

A question was asked about Neighborhood Watch Programs in the Townships. This is not a program offered in the townships.

Proctor School Board Member Larry Shelton reported on behalf of the Proctor School District that construction will begin shortly on Pike Lake School. Kindergarten through fifth grade will be at Pike Lake.

Caribou Lake School will be closed. There were 88 students attending Caribou Lake School this past year. The heating cost was \$30,000 a year. Other uses for the building are being looked into.

The tier system of busing students has been an issue. The longest ride for a student is one hour and five minutes.

Enrollment at Bayview is up about 50 students last year and 30 students this year. Total enrollment for the District is 1800 compared to about 3000 ten years ago.

The District's new superintendent is John Engelking.

MOTION was made by Cindy Moe, seconded by Clare Stromlund and carried to forego reading aloud the March 10, 2009 Annual Meeting minutes and to approve them 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 2009. **A MOTION was made by Joan Gajewski, seconded by Valeria Witte and carried to forego reading aloud of the Receipts and Disbursements Report and to approve the 2009 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 asked by those in attendance. Supervisor Welsh explained that the Town is required to levy a certain dollar amount to the road fund in order to receive "gas tax" monies from the State of Minnesota. The proposed levy includes that amount. Treasurer Cindy Moe mentioned that the county is now charging the Township for sanding and any extra work that the Township requests. Resident Butch Lund asked how the county bills the township for snowplowing. Treasurer Moe explained that the county bills the Township per mile which is split in half and billed twice a year. **MOTION by Cindy Moe, seconded by Lee Popovich and carried to accept the 2009 Road Report as submitted.**

Fire Department Report: Ron Gajewski explained that the Fire Department has applied for a FEMA grant to replace tanker #2 in the amount of \$190,000. The Township will be responsible for a 5% match if the grant is awarded to the Department.

MOTION by Leon Forstrom, seconded by Gordy Jensen and carried to accept the 2009 Fire Report as submitted.

Recycling Report: There were no questions/comments regarding the Recycling Report. **MOTION made by Scott Welsh, seconded by Lee Popovich and carried to accept the 2009 Recycling Report as submitted.**

Hall Report: There were no questions/comments regarding the Hall Report. **MOTION by Leon Forstrom, seconded by Joan Gajewski and carried to accept the Hall Report as submitted.**

Town Clerk Regena Merritt explained she has had several hall rental requests that she is not sure of, and would like direction from the Township residents. Should township residents continue to get a free rental once per year, or should we start charging a small fee for hall rentals? The electorate present was overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the once yearly free rental to township residents.

Should a resident be able to use the hall for whatever they would like? Example: Christmas work party or fundraisers? The electorate responded yes, as long as they abide by the rules.

Should the Town charge if a resident wants to use both upstairs and downstairs for their free rental? The electorate responded that if they have a party that requires both upstairs and downstairs, they should be able to use both for their free rental. Joan Gajewski mentioned that we need to consider that there is only one bathroom upstairs. If there is a big party upstairs, they will need the bathrooms downstairs. The residents agreed that Fundraisers should be allowed as long as it is a resident renting the hall and it is a true charity.

Do we allow a resident to rent the hall for his or her adult family member that lives outside of the township? Example: A resident's brother/sister wishes to use the hall for her/his child's wedding, or niece/nephew's graduation party? The electorate responded that would be fine.

MOTION by Bonnie Siiro, seconded by Gordy Jensen and carried to keep the hall rental rates the same.

Park Report: The moderator asked if there were any questions on the park report. **MOTION by Jeff Nelson, seconded by Bonnie Siiro and carried to approve the Park Report as submitted.**

The 2009 **Aggregate Report** shows receipts of \$47,184.12 and disbursements of \$32,241.95.

In 2009 some of the Aggregate Tax money was spent to remodel the downstairs of the town hall and for the purchase of new chairs for the hall.

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.

General Government Fund Report: Scott Welsh explained every ten years the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan should be updated. The last one was completed in 2000. There is \$8000 in the General Fund Budget for 2011 for this purpose. A question was asked if updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan means there will be any re-zoning. Scott Welsh explained not necessarily and only if the committee working on the plan and the residents feel there should be some re-zoning. **MOTION by Gordy Jensen, seconded by Ed Leiste and carried to accept the General Report as presented.**

Proposed Levy: The moderator asked if there are any questions regarding the proposed levy, hearing none the Motion was made by Pete Hildre seconded by Cindy Welsh and carried to approve a levy of \$286,245 for 2011. The budget amount is \$339,245. In order not to raise the dollar amount of the 2011 levy, the town board will use \$53,000 from the Aggregate Tax Fund as property tax relief. The 2011 Levy is as follows:

General	101,450
Road	83,850
Hall	20,300
Park	8,800
Recycling	1,400
Fire	123,445
Total Budget	339,245
LEVY	286,245

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. 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. No request has been received this year from the Proctor DECA program. **A MOTION was made by Gordy Jensen, seconded by Joan Gajewski 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.**

Items from the Floor: There were no other comments or concerns from the electorate.

A MOTION was made by Jeff Nelson seconded by Cindy Moe and carried to hold the 2011 Township Election Tuesday March 8, 2011 noon to 8:00 p.m. and the Annual Meeting March 8, 2011 at 8:30 pm.

The Clerk announced the results of the election as 26 votes for Ron Gajewski. There were no write-in votes.

A MOTION was made by Cindy Moe, seconded by Scott Welsh and carried to adjourn our meeting at 10:05 P.M.

The Board of Canvass was held at 10:15 P.M. Present were Chairman Ron Gajewski Supervisors Clare R. Stromlund and Scott Welsh. The tally of votes was found to be correct as follows: Ron Gajewski - 26 votes.