

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2010

Chairperson Scott Welsh 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 Clare R. Stromlund, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and three concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to approve the minutes as written from the September 14, 2010 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Gajewski seconded by Stromlund and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated September 30, 2010.

Checking 12605 - 12640

Beginning Balance	\$187,586.14	
Receipts	\$7051.68	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$11,965.56	
Ending Balance	\$182,672.26	\$182,672.26

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 113,811.49	
Interest/Deposits	\$28.06	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	\$113,839.55	\$113,839.55

Total Accounts **\$296,511.81**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

9/15 SLC Assessor's Dept – Local Board of Appeal and Equalization training available for Township Supervisors. All three Solway Supervisors are certified to hold Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings through 2013.

9/21 DHW Consulting - copy of letter sent to Northland Bituminous with the calculated Interest and penalties due from the aggregate tax that was unpaid 2006 – 2010. During an audit performed by DHW Consulting it was found that Northland had been reducing their taxable tons by 25% every quarter because they bring aggregate into the pit from other leased pits. Northland has determined that approximately 25% of this aggregate is not used in the township and felt they did not have to pay aggregate tax on this 25%. Mr. Walsh's letter also tells Northland they should contact Township Attorney John Bray if they have any questions.

9/29 Northland Constructors – Copy of letter sent to Township Attorney John Bray explaining their reasons for excluding 25% from their aggregate tax reports as this material did not come from, or was used in Solway Township. This material was stockpiled at the pit in Solway Township. The Aggregate Tax will also be addressed under Old Business.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: In addition to the list of Outstanding Bills presented by the Treasurer, there are three additional bills as follows:

- Jim Lindquist in the amount of \$415.00 for ditching on the Van Gassler Road and leveling the dirt in the cemetery.
- Portable John in the amount of \$198.08 for portable toilets in the parks.

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- John Childers reimbursement of \$33.00 for fuel for the roadside mower.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund, and carried to pay all outstanding bills as presented by the Town Treasurer.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Nothing to report.

ROAD: a) The Clerk has not heard back from the Kern's on the Hiene Road who have maple trees that need to be removed from their hedge that is in the right-of-way on the Heine Rd. The board instructed the Clerk to let the Kern's know that if they would like to get rid of the hedges the township would dig out the hedges and maple trees making a ditch along the Heine Rd as a boundary to keep traffic from moving over onto their property. Otherwise they will need to trim the hedges yearly for road visibility.

b) Ditching along the Van Gassler by the cemetery has been completed by Jim Lindquist.

FIRE: a) There are no Fire Department members present to give a department report.

b) The Town Board will be holding an Appreciation Dinner for the Volunteer Fire Department Members on October 14, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

c) Some of the lights across the front of the Fire Hall are out. Rick Flesvig has checked out the lights and will finish repairing them.

d) The Township has received payment from the Township insurance company for the repairs completed to rescue van. The damages were done when rescue #5 hit a deer. The work has been completed by Moe & Sons. The Treasurer will make payment to Moe and Sons.

RECYCLING: a) Nothing to report.

HALL: a) The spotlights on the front of the Town Hall are out. Rick Flesvig will be repairing the spotlights on the town hall.

b) Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that tables that are rented out are in very bad shape. He suggested that we take the worst ones out of the hall to use for rental and purchase a few new tables for the hall. The board instructed the Town Clerk to research banquet table prices.

PARK: a) Todd Signs has not yet fixed the lights on the "Solway Township" sign.

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

c) The Board would like to have the skating rink available to town residents again this year as weather permits. There will be an ad put in the newsletter that the skating rink warming shed will be open Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm as soon as the rink is ready.

d) The portable biffie has been removed for the Munger School Site for the winter.

e) Leon Forstrom and Supervisor Gajewski have fixed the roof on the garage at the Munger School Site.

f) The Munger School soccer field will be fertilized as weather permits.

CEMETERY: a) One burial: Eleanor Seppala, September 28, 2010.

b) Chairperson Gajewski completed a cemetery inspection along with the monthly playground inspection. No safety hazards were found.

COMMITTEES: a) The Special Events Halloween Carnival will be Friday October 29th and set-up for the carnival will take place Thursday October 28th.

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b) The next Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee meeting will be October 26th at 6:30 pm.

OLD BUSINESS: a) Township Attorney John Bray has served Northland Bituminous for the unpaid aggregate tax deemed owed to the town from the audit conducted by Don Walsh, DHW Consulting. Northland has been subtracting 25% of the amount of tax owed quarterly because they stockpile gravel they bring in from other jobs and pits. They feel stockpiled gravel does not get taxed. Township Attorney John Bray and Mr. Don Walsh interpret the aggregate tax statutes to include stockpiled gravel. Aggregate is taxed when it is transported on public roads. This would include gravel brought into the township to be stockpiled.

b) The Town Clerk was notified by John Bray that he cannot represent the township in trying to collect the aggregate tax owed by Jim Sathers as he has a conflict of interest. Mr. Bray suggested Attorney John Hedtke to represent the township in trying to collect from Mr. Sathers. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to have Attorney John Hedtke pursue collection of the unpaid aggregate tax from Mr. Jim Sathers.

c) The Newsletter was out before October 1st.

NEW BUSINESS: a) There is a free legal seminar at the Cotton Town Hall on Saturday November 13th. This seminar is sponsored by Couri, MacArthur & Ruppe Law Firm from St. Michael, MN. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to allow Town Board members who wish to attend the legal seminar in Cotton on November 13, 2010 do so at township expense.

b) The Minnesota Association of Townships annual meeting and educational conference will be held November 18 – 20, 2010 in Duluth. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to allow Town Board members who wish to attend the MAT Annual Meeting and Conference in Duluth do so at township expense.

c) Darlene Miller has rented the town hall for a children's party and would like to make it an overnight party. Mrs. Miller runs a daycare and this party is for her daycare children. The Clerk contacted the township insurance agency to find out if the township would have any liability in case of an accident/injury. The agency suggested we get a certificate of insurance from Mrs. Miller's daycare insurance and that the township would not be liable for anything occurring during the party.

d) The Treasurer asked the Supervisors if they would like to pay Jan Jackson for a full year, or split the bill and pay half now and half in six months. This is an option given to us by Ms. Jackson. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to pay Jan Jackson the full year amount of \$14,000 for work completed in 2010.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.