

December 8, 2009

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 Supervisors Clare R. Stromlund and Scott Welsh, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and six citizens.

MOTION made by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2009 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated November 30, 2009.

Checking 12105 - 12182

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$156,440.06 | |
| Receipts | \$ 327.63 | |
| Transfers | 0.00 | |
| Disbursements | \$36,500.94 | |
| Ending Balance | \$120,266.75 | \$120,266.75 |

Savings

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Beginning Balance | \$0.00 | |
| Interest | 0.00 | |
| Deposits | 0.00 | |
| Withdrawals | 0.00 | |
| Ending Balance | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |

Money Market

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 113,446.07 | |
| Interest/Deposits | \$75.85 | |
| Withdrawals | \$0.00 | |
| Ending Balance | \$113,521.92 | \$113,521.92 |

Total Accounts **\$233,788.67**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

11/11/09 John Bray - Copy of letter to Country Trucking for collection of 3rd quarter of 2009 Aggregate Tax. Country Trucking paid the tax on the same day that this letter was received at the town office. The board would like to bill Country for the legal fees incurred by the township having John Bray send the collection letter. This will be addressed under Old Business.

11/16/09 St. Louis Cnty Planning Dept - Conditional Use Permit Application from Apostolic Lutheran Church for a cemetery on their property on Highway #2. This will be addressed under Citizens Requests and Concerns.

11/16/09 Country Trucking - 3rd Qtr Aggregate Tax report and payment.

11/24/09 St. Louis County Planning Department - Notice of Public Hearing for Apostolic Church's Conditional Use Permit Application for a cemetery.

December 8, 2009

11/24/09 St. Louis County Auditor's office - Election Clerk Certification for Town Clerk Regena Merritt good through December 31, 2011.

11/25/09 MN Secretary of State office - Election Information for Town Clerks. No board action.

11/30/09 MN Association of Township Agency -Workers' Compensation Audit. The Clerk will complete the audit and return it to the Agency.

12/8/09 PERA - Notice of Coordinated Plan increase. The Treasurer will make the needed deductions to PERA.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: In addition to the prepared list of bills, the Treasurer has two additional bills as follows: Turbo Diesel and Electric in the amount of \$1,904.09 for repairs to Fire Rescue Truck #5; Melanson's Repair in the amount of \$237.06 for repairs to Fire Rescue Truck #5. Township Assessor Jan Jackson has billed the township \$14,200. for her work in 2009. The invoice states that it can be paid half in December and half in January. Ms. Jackson usually bills the township in January the full amount for the preceding year. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to pay the Township Assessor Jan Jackson the full amount of her invoice for work completed in 2009. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried to pay all outstanding bills as presented by the Treasurer.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Four members of the Apostolic Lutheran Church were present to discuss the Conditional Use Permit Application for a cemetery within the church property at 6273 Highway #2. The Solway Planning and Zoning Committee met on Thursday December 3rd to discuss this Conditional Use Permit. One of the concerns brought up at that meeting was the proximity of the cemetery to the right-of-way on Highway #2. The representatives from the church will look into this and stated they have no problem locating the cemetery further back to comply with any right of way issues in the event Highway #2 is widened. Supervisor Welsh reported on behalf of the Committee that in addition to the highway right of way issue, they addressed the following concerns: the establishment of a cemetery association; cemetery to be enclosed with a fence; written cemetery regulations; permanent markers installed and a permanent easement for access to the cemetery from Highway #2.

The board would also like to see the cemetery completely fenced for liability reasons. This is something the church had already planned on doing. Supervisor Welsh gave the church representatives a copy of the township cemetery regulations as a guide to develop their own. The church members at tonight's meeting explained that they have formed a cemetery committee that has eight members. The Solway Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee voted four to zero in favor of granting a Conditional Use Permit to the Independent Apostolic Lutheran Church. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to accept the recommendations of the Solway Planning and Zoning Committee and to forward that recommendation to the county, and also send a letter from the Town Board to St. Louis County Planning indicating that the Township is in favor of this Conditional Use Permit with the same four conditions that the Solway Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee has mentioned.

December 8, 2009

ROAD: a) Chairperson Gajewski reported on the state road sign reflectivity issues. St. Louis County is adopting the manufacturer's ten-year warranty as the sign longevity. The signs will be replaced on a ten-year cycle. Our newly installed "Dead End" signs already meet the new reflectivity standards. The board will need to make a survey of the road signs and note which ones meet the reflectivity standards. The county recommends preparing a spreadsheet with the signs listed and their replacement dates to be kept on file. The board will take this spreadsheet with on the annual road inspection.

b) Shelton Excavating is charging the same rates as last year for snowplowing. The rates are as follows: pick-up with plow \$45.00 per hour; bobcat with operator \$47.00 per hour; 310 loader with operator \$50.00 per hour; Case loader with operator \$80.00 per hour. The board motioned to hire Shelton's Excavating to plow snow for the township at the October 13, 2009 board meeting.

c) St. Louis County has fixed the potholes on the Jeffrey Road.

d) The streetlight on the corner of Morris Thomas and Munger Shaw Road has been fixed.

FIRE: a) There have been 92 calls year-to-date. There have been three calls for the month of December. November and December calls include one motor vehicle accident, five medical, one permit burn and one structure fire. Chief Suliin reported that his work schedule is changing and that Pete Hildre or another Fire Department Captain will be coming to the Town Board Meetings. The City of Hermantown will now be charging for water. Solway Fire Department has permission to use the hydrant at the Hermantown Fire Hall. Our department can use the Esko hydrant also.

b) Chief Suliin has not received any notification on the FEMA grants.

c) Rescue #5 has been repaired and the bill is in the list of bills to be paid tonight.

d) The Minnesota legislature has mandated a change from the narrow band radio frequency now being used, to 800-megahertz frequency for all fire and rescue departments by 2012 to make inter-department communication easier. This means all new pagers and radios for the fire department. The department is hoping there will be grant money available to replace the narrow band equipment now used.

e) The fire department plans to flood the skating rink as weather permits.

f) The holding tank for the fire hall floor drain has been pumped. The weather is too cold to pump the septic as it will freeze if it is empty.

g) The two cases of lights for the fire hall have been received.

RECYCLING: a) Nothing to report.

HALL: a) The burned-out lights downstairs have been replaced.

b) The septic tank could not be pumped (per Midway Septic) as the weather was too cold and the septic would freeze if empty.

c) The board would like to get a cart with wheels to use as a television and VCR stand. The Clerk will get some prices and report back to the board.

PARK: a) The "pavilion" sign is down from the trail entrance.

December 8, 2009

b) Leon Forstrom was asked by the board to get prices on a trailer to use on the township grounds. He has three prices all range from \$1,200 to \$1,500 and all have a ramp gate. The one from L & M in Cloquet seems to have a sturdier ramp. They all have a wood deck on angle iron that will haul the mower with no problem. The Board will revisit this issue in the spring.

c) A park report was completed by Chairperson Gajewski. The park is in good order.

d) The board will have the skating rink and warming house open on Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. the same as in previous years.

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

b) One burial – Beulah Myers on January 9, 2010.

c) Chairperson Gajewski mentioned that the cemetery regulations do not allow for anything to be on gravesites in the winter. Other area cemeteries allow Christmas wreaths on the gravesites. This is something the board feels we should allow and should be discussed at the Annual Meeting in March.

COMMITTEES: **a)** The Special Events Committee will meet Jan 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to plan for the Winter Fun Day. The Clerk will send notices to committee members.

OLD BUSINESS: **a)** The Town incurred a bill from Township Attorney John Bray in the amount of \$97.50 for a collection letter sent to Country Trucking for the third quarter of 2009 Aggregate Tax. Payment was received from Country Trucking on the same day as the township copy of the letter from John Bray. The report and payment was received one month late. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried to bill Country Trucking the \$97.50 incurred by the township.

b) Since the board has had a complaint regarding dogs at the last town board meeting, the board would like to discuss a Dog Ordinance at the Annual Meeting in March. The Clerk will add this to the Annual Meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: **a)** Chairperson Gajewski has reviewed the township job descriptions and found they do not need to be updated expect to add to the Town Board descriptions “as defined in Minnesota State Statutes 366.01 through 368 in the current Minnesota State Statutes governing Townships”

b) Chairperson Gajewski mentioned that he noticed the Minnesota Associations of Townships Newspaper read that MAT Resolution #3 regarding Aggregate Tax has passed when in fact it did not pass at the MAT annual meeting. Chairperson Gajewski contacted MAT and they have already corrected this information on their website.

c) The state has taken away the Agriculture classification for properties that have not submitted the proper forms to the assessor. Some property owners have called the town office with concerns about the Agriculture credit being taken away and not fully understanding what they needed to keep their agriculture credit.

December 8, 2009

The board is hoping there is something that can be done for property owners who missed the deadlines for submitting the proper information maybe in the form of a tax rebate. The Clerk will investigate whether there are any options for these property owners.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.