

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes

November 9, 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 five concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to approve the minutes as written from the October 12, 2010 Town Board Meeting. MOTION made by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried to approve the minutes from the Special Town Meeting held on October 26, 2010 to discuss payment of the chassis for the new fire truck. The Township will initially pay for the chassis, and the money will be reimbursed to the township from the FEMA Grant in January 2011.

MOTION by Gajewski seconded by Stromlund and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated October 31, 2010.

Checking 12641 - 12680		
Beginning Balance	\$182,672.26	
Receipts	\$21,512.72	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$31,135.76	
Ending Balance	<u>\$173,049.22</u>	\$173,049.22
Money Market		
Beginning Balance	\$ 113,839.55	
Interest/Deposits	\$23.99	
Withdrawals	\$95,750.00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$18,113.54</u>	<u>\$18,113.54</u>
Total Accounts		\$191,162.76

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

10/13 Secretary of State Office/ Director of Elections - Election survey that was completed by the Clerk and returned via email. This information is needed for mandatory reporting to the Federal Election Assistance Commission.

10/13 WLSSD - Allocation amount for 2011 is \$1,237. This amount had been previously budgeted by the Board.

10/14 Tim Costly Campaign Committee - Campaign materials. No Board action.

10/18 Shelton Excavating – Snowplowing rates for the 2010/2011 season will be \$45.00 per hour.

10/20 MN Dept of Health - Grants Available. No board action.

10/21 SLC Director of Elections Patricia Stolee - Election supplies are ready for Clerk.

10/22 Cloquet Postmaster – Letter from the Post Office informing the Board that the mail carrier's car started on fire on October 22, 2010.

10/25 William D. Paul – Mr. Paul represents Mr. Jim Sathers and is requesting information on what pit owners/operators have previously paid Aggregate Tax. This will be addressed under New Business.

10/28 Ashley Winchell Proctor Schools - Election information regarding School Board

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Election. No board action.

10/29 John Powers, Applied Insights North - CLUP meeting notice information. No board Action.

10/30 DHW Consulting - Updated audit for Jim Sathers. The Town Board requested Mr. Don Walsh to get audit information quarterly and to figure penalties and interest based on this information and send it to Mr. Sathers.

11/1 St. Louis County Director of Elections - List of absentee voters. No board action.

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

- DHW Consulting in the amount of \$1173.00 for work on the Aggregate Tax audit.
- James Lindquist in the amount of \$1200.00 for grading township roads.
- Forum Communications in the amount of \$52.00 for legal publishing.
- Lake Country Power in the amount of \$19.50 for one of the street lights power bill. This was not received with the rest of the bills as it was in the mail carriers car when it started on fire.

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Nothing to report.

ROAD: a) 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 have contacted the Clerk. They plan to trim the hedges and cut the maple trees in the right-of-way. They will contact the township next spring to let the board know if they would like to have the township dig out the hedges and maple trees and make a ditch along the Heine Rd as a boundary to keep traffic from moving over onto their property. Otherwise they will trim the hedges yearly for road traffic visibility.

FIRE: a) There has been 68 calls year-to-date for the Department. This includes 48 medical; 18 fire calls; and two vehicle accidents this month. Ten of these calls were mutual aid to other departments.

b) The Department has hired two new members. Both of the men are members of the U.S. Coast Guard and have been certified in Firefighter I and Firefighter II. They are completing 1st responder training. All the training was paid by the Coast Guard.

c) The Department has received a DNR grant in the amount of \$800 that will be used for hose on the new fire truck. Most of the vehicle extraction equipment that was purchased with the FEMA grant has arrived. The department has \$2,000 left to spend.

d) Jeff Nelson reported that the valve on the water collection system in the utility room had popped off which caused the air compressor to run constant. The department has bypassed the collection system for now. Firefighter Jim Johnson will look at the problem and hopefully come up with some ideas for a better system.

e) Enbridge Corporation has a 2004 ¾ ton 4-wheeldrive Silverado pick-up that they are donating. Gordy Jensen works for Enbridge and would like to request this donation on behalf of the Fire Department and township. The truck has 155,000 mostly highway miles. This truck could replace the 1985 DNR truck that the Department uses for a grass rig. It would cost approximately three thousand dollars to paint the truck and outfit it with lights and decals.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried to have Fire Chief Wayne Suliin pursue obtaining the donated truck from Enbridge Corp.

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- f) Stainless Repair is coming along in building the new fire truck, and the Department plans to go to Stainless in late November to look at the truck and make a few final decisions for the truck. The Department has invited any Town Board members to ride along if they wish.
- g) The department reported that the side man door lock does not work, and the front man door mechanism is loose. The Clerk will call a locksmith to have the door locks repaired.
- h) The Fire Department will try to flood the ice rink as soon as possible.

RECYCLING: a) Nothing to report.

HALL: a) The spotlights on the front of the Town Hall that were not working have been replaced by Rick Flesvig.

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 would like 96' by 36' tables. They found one advertised for \$209.90 plus delivery, but would like to review more options at the next Town Board meeting.

c) The Clerk reported that she can't update the website with the minutes and newsletter with the version of Adobe Acrobat she now has. She has tried to get an update for this version, but it is too old. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to allow the Town Clerk to purchase Adobe Acrobat Version 9. Supervisor Welsh suggested she contact Admin MN Cooperative Purchasing Venture for pricing.

PARK: a) Todd Signs has 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. 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) Supervisor Gajewski reported that Grand Lake and Canosia Townships have mentioned purchasing a field aerator along with Solway Township for the three townships to share. Supervisor Gajewski will report to the board when the townships have more information.

CEMETERY: a) There has been three burials at the township cemetery. Betty Kolenda – October 23, 2010; Jesse Hughes – October 21, 2010 and Mona Carl – November 2, 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 was attended by about 275 children. There is a profit for the Special Events Committee of \$1,200. Supervisor Stromlund mentioned that someone saw one child crossing in front of the hall to the parking lot as a car was coming. Maybe the traffic could be routed so cars do not drive in the area next to the hall building. The board discussed putting up "Watch for Children" signs during the carnival. Supervisor Gajewski reported that the Committee was very pleased with the patrol person from APS.

b) The next Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee meeting will be November 11th 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. John Bray is waiting for a response from Northland.

b) The Town Clerk was notified by Attorney John Hedtke that he has a conflict of interest with representing the town for collection of aggregate tax owed by Jim Sathers. Mr. Hedtke was

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suggested by Township Attorney John Bray because Mr. Bray has a conflict of interest with Mr. Sathers as well. John Bray has now suggested Attorney Mike Lien. The Board will also contact Attorney Troy Gilchrist, and also the Couri, Mac Arthur, Ruppe, Law Firm to get information to decide on an attorney to represent the township in regard to Mr. Sathers.

NEW BUSINESS: a) The Town needs to respond to the letter received from Attorney William D. Paul who represents Mr. Jim Sathers regarding aggregate tax due. The Town Board agrees that a response to this letter should be sent by an attorney on behalf of the township. The Town Board is holding a Special Meeting on Tuesday November 16th to hire an attorney to respond to the letter from attorney William Paul and to discuss other collection issues. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to respond to the letter of October 25, 2010 from Attorney William D. Paul as soon as the township hires an attorney to represent them.

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