

# Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes

## January 9, 2024

### I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Solway Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Ron Gajewski, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Scott Welsh and Jeff Keppers, Clerk Tami McGregor, Deputy Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and twelve concerned citizens.

### II. MINUTES – TOWN BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2023

**MOTION by Supervisor Welsh, seconded by Supervisor Keppers, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the town board meeting of December 12, 2023, as presented.**

### III. TREASURER’S REPORT – DECEMBER 31, 2023 (TENTATIVE)

**MOTION by Supervisor Keppers, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and carried unanimously to accept the monthly Treasurer’s Report dated December 31, 2023 (Tentative).** Treasurer Moe called for a motion zeroing out accounts. **MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and carried unanimously to zero out accounts using aggregate funds.**

**Checking:19734-19773**

Beginning Balance	\$108,519.24	
Receipts	139,169.05	
Disbursements	<u>-25,727.75</u>	
Ending Balance	\$221,960.54	<b>\$221,960.54</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$110,445.99	
Interest/Deposits	0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$110,445.99	<b><u>\$110,445.99</u></b>

**Total Accounts \$332,406.53**

### IV. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE (By date received)

- 12/12 MN Board of Water & Soil Resources – 2023 Outstanding Soil & Water Conservation District Employee Announcement
- 12/13 John Menendez, FEMA – Confirmation of Solway’s nonparticipation in FEMA Category Z project
- 12/14 MN Board of Water & Soil Resources – News Release-BWSR Awards \$10 Million in Clean Water Fund Grants

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- 12/14 Brandon Finley, Ramaker – Information RE: cemetery management software (Discussed under “Cemetery”)
- 12/15 BreAnn Graber, SLC – NOAA Grant Kickoff 12/11 meeting notes/slides (Not included in packet)
- 12/19 Randall’s Heating & Cooling – Quote for hall oil boiler and water heater (Discussed under “Hall”)
- 12/19 Proctor Journal/Hermantown Star – Affidavits of Publication (“Notice of Filing for Township Election”)
- 12/19 MN Association of Townships – MAT Legal Case Update
- 12/19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) – Notice of Workshop on 01/08 at 2PM CST for annual SLFRF reporters. Treasurer Moe and Clerk McGregor will attend.
- 12/19 Pine Knot News – Affidavit of Publication (“Notice of Filing for Township Election”)
- 12/21 SLC Elections – Notice of AutoMark Disposal & OmniBallot Pick-Up on 01/04 from 8AM-4PM, SLC Courthouse
- 12/22 Brooke Wetmore, SLC Admin – Regional NOAA Grant Partner Meeting Invite (01/17/24; 9:30-11:30 AM)
- 12/26 Michelle Claviter-Tveit, SLC Planning – Info RE: 01/11/24 (9:45 AM) Planning Commission meeting RE: Chad Nelson, Hermantown Hydraulics Conditional Use Permit Application (Inc. 12/26/23 Notice to property owners within required area, and SLC Planning Commission 12/22 Staff Report) (Discussed Under “Old Business”)
- 12/27 Rebecca Morris, Ramaker - Cemetery Information Management Software (CIMS) – Request for additional information regarding proposal
- 12/28 Cameron Gustafson, Carlton Soil & Water Conservation District – Request to publish free community events focused on the Midway River (02/22, 03/05 & 03/26) in Solway Section Lines
- 12/28 MN Association of Townships Insurance Trust (MATIT) – Key dates RE: Submission of Work Comp Surveys
- 12/28 Kelli Deasy, SLC Court Admin – ORI fields used to generate fine revenue are entered by law enforcement (Discussed under “Old Business”)
- 12/28 Yvonne Kalin, SLC Atty’s Office – MN State Patrol updated eCitation application to allow for distribution of fine revenue to Solway (Discussed under “Old Business”)
- 12/28 Carlson Duluth – Backflow Preventer Test Reports (Town Hall & Fire Hall)
- 12/28 Rebecca Morris, Ramaker – Cemetery Information Management Software (CIMS) pricing information and contract (Discussed under “Cemetery”)
- 12/29 Summit Supply – Quote for Twist-In Soccer Net Clips – (50 clips @ \$70.95 + \$28.00 shipping = \$98.95) The purchase of clips was discussed at the January meeting. The clips are for the nets on the larger field at the town hall. **MOTION by Supervisor Welsh, seconded by Supervisor Gajewski, and carried unanimously to approve the**

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**purchase of 50 Twist-In Soccer Net clips, in the amount of \$98.95, from Summit Supply.**

- 12/29 MN Association of Townships (MAT) – 2024 Dues Statement. Based upon reports from other districts that the association is still heading in a negative direction, Treasurer Moe recommended that Solway discontinue its membership with MAT. Supervisor Gajewski suggested withholding payment of dues for now as they are not payable until May 1, 2024. Issues with MAT are also scheduled to be discussed at the St. Louis County Association of Townships (SLCAT) meeting scheduled for January 24, 2024. **MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and carried unanimously to table discussion of this matter until the February meeting.**
- 01/01 Earl & Barbara Beaudin/Richard & Jan Goerts – Letter of opposition RE: Rezoning of Property at 4619 Caribou Lake Road to Industrial Use Class II (Discussed Under “Old Business”)
- 01/02 MN Association of Townships Insurance Trust (MATIT) – 2023 Work Comp Payroll Audit now underway (Report due: 02/15/24)
- 01/02 MN Department of Revenue – Notice of Board of Appeal & Equalization training – 2024 Board Training Deadline: 02/01/24
- 01/03 CTAS (Small City and Town Accounting System) – MN Secretary of State – CTAS Earned Safe and Sick Time (ESST) info/updates and 2024 Tax Tables.
- 01/04 Jonathan Blevins, SLC Elections – Ballot Layout Form and March Elections Ballot Order Form due by 01/17
- 01/04 Michael Jost, LHB – Request for confirmation from MnDOT that there are no outstanding items RE: Jeffrey Road LRIP application
- 01/04 Rashmi Brewer, MnDOT – Confirmed receipt of signed LRIP resolutions RE: Jeffrey Road application
- 01/05 PERA – Annual Leave Report for calendar year ending 12/31/23 due by 01/31
- 01/05 MN Dept. of Revenue – MN Withholding Tax Return and Deposit due 01/31
- 01/08 MN Dept. of Revenue – W-2 and 1099 Due Dates
- 01/08 MN Association of Townships (MAT) – Reminder of U.S. Treasury State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF-ARPA) workshop on 01/08 for annual reporters
- 01/08 Yvonne McCauley, SLC Auditor’s Office – Annual Report of Outstanding Indebtedness for 2023 (Report due: 02/01/24)
- 01/08 Andrew Lacovara, Catalis – Catalis pricing and sample client list for new website platform. Solway’s current contract will expire on June 1, 2024. (Discussed under “New Business”)
- 01/08 Kivi Aggregate – 2023 fourth quarter Aggregate Material Tax Reporting Form received; no payment due (Not in packet)
- 01/09 KTM Paving - 2023 fourth quarter Aggregate Material Tax Reporting Form and payment received (Not in packet)

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- 01/09 MN Power – Notice to Counties and Municipalities - Authorization of total interim rate increase net of offsetting riders of approximately 8.6% effective 01/01, and to remain in effect until a final rate level is determined
- 01/09 John Menendez, FEMA – Notice of second opportunity to submit cost for Category Z Mgmt. costs RE: 2023 spring flooding. Following response, final Recovery Transition Meeting (RTM) will be scheduled.
- 01/09 Rebecca Morris, Ramaker – Response to Clerk McGregor’s 01/09 inquiry for additional pricing/misc. information RE: Cemetery Information Management System (CIMS) (Discussed under “Cemetery”)
- 01/09 Angela Lessard, SLC Sheriff’s Office – RMS vendor has reconfigured eCitation coding to enable entry of Solway’s ORI number for purposes of fine revenue.
- 01/09 Juanita Peterson, A.G. O’Brien – Quote dated 01/09 regarding hall boiler, water heater and circulator pumps and valves
- 01/09 Angela Lessard, SLC Sheriff’s Office – Confirmation that “Community of Offense” and “Prosecuting Agency” will both reflect Solway’s ORI number when Solway is selected as “Community of Offense”

**V. OUTSTANDING BILLS** - Treasurer Moe reported additional bills for the Outstanding Bills List as follows:

- Jeff Keppers - \$106.65 (Cell phone stipend and briefcase reimbursement)
- DSC Communications - \$213.75 (Engine 1 radio repair; Tanker #3 siren repair)
- Emergency Apparatus Maintenance - \$1,257.88 (Engine #1 switch repair)
- Pomp’s Tire Service, Inc. - \$5,954.32 (Tanker #3 - 10 Tires Replaced)

**MOTION by Supervisor Welsh, seconded by Supervisor Keppers, and carried unanimously to pay all bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills List, and any additional bills presented by the town treasurer, for a total amount of \$113,706.83.**

**VI. CITIZEN REQUESTS AND CONCERNS**

- A. Gaus Road Activity – Since August 2023, there have been ongoing concerns by citizens regarding noise, roadside parking and road damage, disposal of debris, and whether proper permitting has been obtained for activity on the property at 4158 Gaus Road.

Residents have expressed their concerns to St. Louis County Commissioner Keith Musolf, the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, and Planning & Zoning, and on behalf of the township, Supervisor Keppers has followed up with the county in support of the residents.

Deputy Scott Dinehart, Environmental Services Deputy with the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, and Sergeant Adam Kleffman attended the January meeting to gather information from the residents and the town board. They

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indicated that Deputy Dinehart should be the primary contact on this matter regarding environmental issues for the residents and the township. Deputy Sean Clark has also been working directly with the residents in response to 9-1-1 calls.

The Sheriff's Office staff was informed by the board that all zoning for Solway Township is handled by the county, but that the township is allowed to give input on applications as they are submitted to the county.

The Sheriff's Office indicated they have been in touch with various county departments and were informed that the county is aware of the concerns and is investigating the reports. The Sheriff's Office is also seeking guidance from the county regarding enforcement, as the township itself has no enforcement authority. There was also a recommendation that the residents contact the St. Louis County Health Department to see if they would be able to offer any assistance.

The town board confirmed that the property in question is in a residentially zoned area, and Supervisor Gajewski inquired whether any nuisance property fines could be levied by the county. Sergeant Dinehart indicated that typically, a property owner is not automatically cited, but given time to clean up the property, which can be a long process.

Deputy Dinehart reported that he has inquired regarding appropriate hours of operation and is waiting to hear back from the county. He will also try to obtain more information regarding the trust that is involved with this property and recommended that when any correspondence is sent, that it be sent to the property owner and occupant.

Supervisor Gajewski indicated that if appropriate, the township may send correspondence to the occupant regarding a driveway permit and see whether the occupant is willing to meet or come to a township meeting. The Sheriff's Office indicated their willingness to be part of any meetings with the occupant.

Residents reported that the occupant is also exiting through the back of the property in the railroad right-of-way and that Deputy Sean Clark informed them he will be contacting the Canadian National (CN) Railway regarding this matter. The Sheriff's Office suggested that a letter from the township to the CN may also be beneficial. Residents were also informed that when calls are made to 9-1-1, Deputy Dinehart be referenced.

After a lengthy discussion, the Sheriff's Office indicated that resolution of the zoning, commercial and health issues on this property may take months to resolve. Residents were cautioned against personal contact with the property occupant and instructed to continue with their documentation and

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to contact the Sheriff's Office and other county personnel as necessary. Once called to respond, the Sheriff's Office reports will provide additional documentation. According to the Sheriff's Office, the first step will be to determine whether there are violations, and if so, how those will be handled.

### **VII. ROAD**

- A. 2023 Spring Flood Damage-FEMA Reimbursement Grant & Admin Costs -  
On November 29, 2023, HSEM confirmed Solway's certification of project completion. The township received a total reimbursement of \$10,705.85 under this grant.

On January 9, 2024, an email was received from John Menendez with FEMA informing Solway that the initial response regarding nonparticipation in the FEMA CAT Z Mgmt. phase of the grant was not binding and requesting a second response before a final Recovery Transition Meeting (RTM) is scheduled. Clerk McGregor reaffirmed Solway's nonparticipation in the FEMA CAT Z Mgmt. phase of the grant on January 9, 2024.

- B. Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Funding-Jeffrey Road -Solway's LRIP application for funding to improve/blacktop the Jeffrey Road between Highway #2 and the Maple Grove Road was submitted to MnDOT by LHB on December 8, 2023.

On December 13, 2023, Clerk McGregor submitted "Solway Township Resolution #2023-7 – Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Improvements to Jeffrey Road (Township Road 5607)" to MnDOT and LHB.

The LRIP Advisory Committee will meet to review/recommend applications on March 14, 2024, and awards are anticipated to be announced on March 29, 2024. There was no update at the January meeting.

### **VIII. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- A. Department Report – Chief Brandon Porter reported the department is currently at 15 members. They finished up the year with a large-scale search and rescue on the Crosby Road involving about 70 personnel, including 4 Solway apparatus. Between the evening of December 31st and January 1st, they experienced their highest call volume in the last decade, all medical calls. Solway was also able to assemble a duty crew to service the Esko area while they were unavailable for service. Chief Porter also indicated that two-thirds of the wildland gear has now been received.
- B. Building Signage Backlighting – Chief Porter reported that the outlets for the signage backlighting have been installed. Once the LED lights are attached to the sign, they will only need to be plugged in.
- C. Insurance (Engine #1-2005 Pierce Enforcer) Equipment Coverage – The fire department is in the process of compiling an equipment cost inventory as requested by the MN Association of Townships Insurance Trust (MATIT)

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to support an additional \$100,000 in requested coverage due to the equipment Engine #1 carries. MATIT has estimated that the additional premium will be just over \$300 per year. At the January meeting, Chief Porter indicated that his staff is continuing to work on the inventory.

- D. Fire Vehicle Back-up Camera Systems (Unit #5 & Engine #1) – Back-up cameras will be installed in Rescue Unit #5 (2015 Ford F550) and Engine #1 (2005 Pierce Enforcer). At the January meeting, Chief Porter reported that he has found a lower cost alternative, which will reduce the cost for these cameras from \$2,400 to \$500.
- E. Tanker #3 (2012 Freightliner) EAM Repairs – Chief Porter delivered Tanker #3 to EAM in Lino Lakes on December 12, 2023, for repair of the pump transmission input/output shaft seal leaks and master discharge valve and gauges.

During the trip there was a leaking tire, and upon further inspection, it was discovered that the sidewall of the tire was ruptured and was no longer safe to drive. It was also determined that all ten tires on the unit were in need of replacement. Pomp's Tire was able to get Solway on the state pricing program, dropping the price to \$540 per tire; therefore, all ten tires were replaced while the truck was in Lino Lakes.

At the January meeting, Chief Porter requested payment for the tires, including mounting and disposal of the old tires, in the amount of \$5,954.32. **MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and carried unanimously to approve payment to Pomp's Tires in the amount of \$5,954.32 for the replacement of all ten tires on Tanker #3.**

- F. Motorola Radios – At the January meeting, Chief Porter reported that the six additional radios approved for purchase at the December meeting were purchased for \$5,394.00. Radios for the entire department have now been upgraded and they are prepared for any changes made by St. Louis County. The total radio purchase project was completed for about \$15,000, which was a 90 percent savings from the original estimate.
- G. Vehicle Operation Training – Chief Porter reported that large scale vehicle operation training was recently completed within the department. Chief Porter, Assistant Chief Ross and Captain Leroy Hanson rode along to instruct other members of the department. At present, the department has a good complement of all-weather trucks, with Tanker #3 being a 10-wheel truck, and Engine #1 having deployable tire chains.

### IX. RECYCLING

- A. Recycling Center Street/Yard Light – At the January meeting, Supervisor Gajewski reported that although he recently contacted Rick Flesvig for an update regarding replacement of the recycling center street/yardlight bulb, he had not heard back from him prior to the meeting. If it turns out that Mr. Flesvig's schedule does not allow for him to replace the bulb, Supervisor

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Welsh will contact an alternative contractor to see if they are able to complete the work.

### X. HALL

- A. Video Conferencing & Hall Lower-Level Audio Visual System – Supervisor Gajewski reported at the January meeting that Tim Aldrich and Rick Flesvig have completed the wiring on the lower-level AV system and the downstairs television has been installed.

Mr. Aldrich has provided a 50' HDMI cable to run from the upstairs television to the stage, and will also provide a 20' cable for use with equipment at a closer range. A splitter tying together the upper and lower-level audio systems, and equipment enabling recordings of meetings from a laptop will also need to be installed.

- B. Roof Flashing Repairs/Roof Vent Over Stage – At the January meeting, Supervisor Gajewski reported that although we were not aware, Morins had completed minor repairs to roof flashing on the east and south sides of the building and leveled the roof vent above the stage area prior to the December meeting. There have been no leaks since the repairs, even after the unseasonable heavy rainfall we received.
- C. Kitchen Exhaust/Ceiling Fan – Rick Flesvig (Red-D-Electric) completed the installation of an exhaust fan with an incremental timer switch in the upstairs kitchen on December 21, 2023.
- D. Boiler/Water Heater Replacement – At the January meeting, Supervisor Gajewski reported that recommendations from contractors contacted were split between oil and propane. Jane Mathias from Como Oil & Propane reviewed the hall grounds to determine the best location for a propane tank. One possibility was on the north side of the hall. Due to a 10-foot distance requirement from the building, protective concrete barriers would be necessary around the tank due to vehicle traffic in that area. Ms. Mathias also explored the possibility of running propane from the tank near the recycling center; however, this would require disruption to the parking lot blacktop.

Supervisor Gajewski also discussed the option of electric heat with Red-D-Electric and was informed that dual fuel would need to be utilized and this would not be a cost-effective option.

A quote from Randall's Heating and Cooling was received on December 19, 2023. The cost to dismantle the existing oil boiler and related components and install a high efficiency oil-fired Weil McLain hot water boiler, including an upgrade to high efficiency circulation zone pumps, was \$13,300.00. The cost to remove and discard the existing water heater and install a new Bock 32E33 oil-fired domestic hot water heater and venting system was \$5,400.00.



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A quote from A.G. O'Brien was received on January 9, 2024. The cost to dismantle the existing oil boiler, related components, and water heater, and install an oil-fired Weil McLain boiler, including circulation zone pumps, and hot water heater was \$23,714.23.

After discussion, the board was in agreement that the electric and propane options are not practical for the hall boiler and water heater.

**MOTION by Supervisor Welsh, seconded by Supervisor Keppers, and carried unanimously to accept the quote received from Randall's Heating and Cooling on December 19, 2023, in a total amount of \$18,700.00 for the removal and disposal of the existing water heater and boiler, and installation of a new Weil Mclain WGO-6-S4 86% efficient oil-fired hot water boiler, installation of new high efficiency circulation zone pumps, and a new Bock 32E33 oil-fired domestic hot water heater and venting systems.**

**MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and carried unanimously to approve any down payment required following acceptance of Randall's Heating and Cooling proposal.**

- E. Audio Visual Equipment/Internet for Rentals (Private/Public Network) – There was discussion regarding the utilization of audio-visual equipment by those renting the town hall, and whether a public use network should be considered. Following discussion, **MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and carried unanimously to allow access to the audio-visual systems to renters at the town hall; however, the township will not set up a public use network.**

### **XI. PARK**

- A. Safety Inspection Report – Supervisor Gajewski reported that there were no safety hazards included in the January 3, 2024, report. He also reported that with the unseasonably warm weather, and minimal snowfall, the walking trails have been well utilized.
- B. Playground Equipment – At the November 2023 meeting, discussion regarding the consideration for the purchase of three additional pieces of playground equipment (an infinity bowl, Chrysalis spinner, and an Expression swing) was tabled until 2024.

After discussion at the January meeting, it was determined that this matter will be tabled until the March meeting, providing there are ARPA funds remaining and room to install the equipment.

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### XII. CEMETERY

- A. Cemetery Information Management Software (CIMS) – On December 26, 2023, Clerk McGregor and Deputy Clerk Merritt participated in a virtual demo of CIMS. Ramaker Company is an engineering firm headquartered in Wisconsin that has been in business since 1998 and has been 100% employee owned since 2007. For cemetery mapping, a Geographic Information System (GIS) is used, similar to what is used for the St. Louis County Land Explorer program, and since 2016, the software has been cloud-based.

Three CIMS platforms are available for customers. “CIMS Light” is a secure online database for cemeteries not interested in digital mapping and is similar to the manual system currently being used by the township.

“CIMS Gold” provides an easy-to-use mapping program that allows users to create and control their cemetery maps by utilizing pins on Google maps. Burial records and documents can also be linked to specific cemetery plots within the CIMS database. This platform also allows for viewing of used and open plots.

“CIMS Platinum” includes custom maps and advanced features that would not be necessary for Solway.

If considered, Clerk McGregor and Deputy Clerk Merritt believe the platform best suited to Solway’s needs would be “CIMS Gold.” Preliminarily, it appears that the cost for the “CIMS” gold platform would be approximately \$2,800 (one-time set-up fee) plus \$500 per year for annual CIMS maintenance.

Concern was raised regarding data rights should the township ever choose to discontinue payment of the annual maintenance fee. After discussion, it was determined that the township will hold off on the purchase of cemetery software at this time. Deputy Clerk Merritt will explore further options as time permits and this topic will be discussed again once more information is available.

### XIII. COMMITTEES

- A. Special Events – Winter Fun Day – The Winter Fun Day is scheduled for Sunday, March 3, 2024, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The planning meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2024, and Clerk McGregor will send out notices to the committee around February 1<sup>st</sup>.

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### XIV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Township Fine Revenue Per Minnesota Statutes § 484.90, Subd. 6 – Configuration of Solway Township’s ORI number was completed in 2020 to allow for revenue from fines for offenses occurring within the township; however, no revenue is being received.

On December 19, 2023, Clerk McGregor discussed this matter with Yvonne Kalin, Criminal Division Legal Secretary Supervisor in the St. Louis County Attorney’s Office.

Ms. Kalin forwarded information and requirements provided to her by Clerk McGregor to her contacts with the MN State Patrol and the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office.

On December 28, 2023, the MN State Patrol provided the information to their IT staff, who updated their code table that same day. The updated code tables were pushed out to the troopers the week of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Clerk McGregor also spoke to Angie Lessard, Information Specialist Supervisor with the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office. On January 9, 2024, Ms. Lessard indicated that she had followed up with their RMS vendor to see that their code tables were also updated. According to Ms. Lessard, when Solway is selected as the “Community of Offense,” the “Prosecuting Agency” field will also default to Solway’s ORI number.

Once the ORI codes assigned to Solway are used, fine revenue should automatically be generated from the MN Court Administrator’s Office via ACH payments to Solway. Clerk McGregor will follow-up on this matter at the end of the first quarter to be sure revenue is being received, and that both law enforcement agencies are utilizing Solway’s ORI number.

- B. Aggregate Tax Audits - Amanda Nelson has contacted all pit owners/operators and is in the process of conducting audits for the past six years. There was no update at the January meeting.
- C. Keopp/Nelson (Hermantown Hydraulics) Conditional Land Use Application - On December 5, 2023, Solway received from St. Louis County Planning, a Conditional Land Use Permit (CLUP) Application regarding a sewage treatment system for consideration at their January 11, 2024, meeting.

On December 13, 2023, St. Louis County was notified by Solway via email that the application had been reviewed and that there were no comments or concerns. It was also noted that at that time, no comments or concerns had been received from Solway residents.

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On December 26, 2023, the township received additional information regarding the January 11, 2024, meeting, and notice that any comments be submitted by January 8, 2024.

On January 1, 2024, the township received an email from concerned residents on the Caribou Lake Road. Residents indicated concern that the entire area north of Hwy 194 on the Caribou Lake Road may eventually be re-zoned for industrial use.

This matter was again discussed at the January meeting, following receipt of the email dated January 1, 2024. The current application is for a conditional land use permit for one specific property and will not affect the re-zoning of an entire area. After discussion, it was determined that the township will take no further action as we are beyond the January 8, 2024, comment submission deadline, and because the county also received the email stating the resident concerns.

### **XV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Budget Meeting – **MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and carried unanimously to schedule the budget meeting for Monday, February 26, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**
- B. MN Power HVDC Modernization Project – The State of MN has scheduled a public hearing on March 13, 2024, at the Solway Town Hall regarding MN Power’s HVDC Modernization Project that will be constructed within the township. There was an article in the January newsletter regarding the project. Once additional information is received from MN Power, the time of the hearing will be posted on the website, and closer to the meeting date, on the electronic message center.
- C. Country Music Show Donation – On December 26, 2023, a donation was received from the Country Music Show.

### **Solway Township Resolution 2024-1 St. Louis County Minnesota**

#### **Resolution Accepting Donation**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Solway is authorized to accept and maintain donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section § 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Country Music Show has offered to contribute a donation of \$150.00; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are no terms or conditions for the donation; and,

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**WHEREAS**, all such donations have been contributed to the Town of Solway for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of Solway Township finds that it is appropriate to accept the donation offered.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of Solway Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota that:

The donation described above is accepted and shall be used as allowed by law.

**Supervisor Gajewski moved the adoption of the Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Keppers, and it was declared adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024, upon the following votes:**

Yeas: Supervisors Gajewski, Welsh and Keppers - 3

Nays: None - 0

Absent: None - 0

- D. Website – Catalis New Contract Pricing – The township’s current website contract with Catalis expires on June 1, 2024. At the January meeting, pricing information that was received on January 8, 2024, was discussed for either leaving our website “as is,” or with redesign on a new platform. The annual hosting fee for our current contract is \$699.60, and effective June 1, 2024, will increase to \$1,060.00. With a new platform/redesign, the annual hosting fee would be \$1,995.00. **MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and carried unanimously that for now, we will continue with our website “as is.”** Clerk McGregor will notify Catalis of the board’s decision.

### **XVI. SIGN CHECKS/ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Supervisor Gajewski, seconded by Supervisor Keppers, and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight’s meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.**