

The Solway Town Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Solway Town Hall by Chairperson Scott Welsh, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Clare R. Stromlund and Ron Gajewski, Treasurer Cindy Moe, Clerk Regena Merritt and eight concerned citizens. MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of December 13, 2016.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the Tentative Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2016.

**Checking:16205-16242**

Beginning Balance	\$371,108.74	
Receipts	142,157.68	
Disbursements	<u>\$-32,660.13</u>	
Ending Balance	\$480,606.29	<b>\$404,680.29</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	<b>\$ 108,819.20</b>	
Interest/Deposits	\$8.19	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$108,828.12	<b><u>\$108,828.12</u></b>

**Total Accounts**

**\$589,434.41**

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERN:** a) The Board is hearing Superintendent Engelking out of the Agenda order as he needs to be at another Township Meeting.

Proctor Public Schools Superintendent John Engelking asked to speak regarding the upcoming referendum for athletic facilities. Superintendent Engelking explained that the present arena is 45 years old. Supervisor Gajewski asked if the present arena could be updated. Superintendent Engelking explained that the area belongs to the St Louis County Fair Board and is rented by the school district. The Superintendent showed a video with folks in favor of the new athletic facilities speaking. This will be a multi-purpose facility and the referendum includes installation of synthetic/artificial turf at Egerdahl Field for soccer, football and lacrosse. It was explained that for a home valued at \$150,000 the estimated tax would be \$47 per year. The referendum includes fifty-thousand dollars for each Township to spend as they choose on recreation. There will be a public forum January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM at the Proctor arena to answer questions and discuss the referendum.

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**12/9 MN Management & Budget** - Local Government Pay Equity Information requested. Clerk responded to request.

**12/19 MN Pollution Control Agency** - Copy of proposed amendment to Minnesota Rules. No board action.

**12/20 US Census Bureau** - Census Boundary & Annexation survey. Deputy Clerk Jensen responded to survey.

**12/22 Lori Blais, WLSSD** - Notice that Shed attendants no longer need to fill out collection forms.

**1/4 Suzy Hartwick** - Information on the Yellow Ribbon Committee. Ms Hartwick attended an ACTS Meeting and gave a presentation regarding the Yellow Ribbon Committee. As of now, a steering committee has been formed. The Board directed the Clerk to add the Yellow Ribbon Committee to the Annual Meeting Agenda.

**1/5 Chris Ellian** - Suggested questions for internet survey that the Board would like to send to Township residents.

**1/6 Minnesota Revenue** - Certificate of Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Training for Clare R. Stromlund.

**1/9 Jim Lindquist/Kivi Aggregate/Sathers Construction** - Aggregate Tax reporting form and payment.

**1/9 Minnesota Association of Townships Agency** - Insurance packet and notice of optional changes. The Board discussed and decided not to adopt the optional additional coverage for Clerks and Treasurer.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** a) The Treasurer has an additional amount of five-thousand to add to the contract amount to the Fire Department.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to pay all outstanding bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list and the additional amount presented by the Town Treasurer for a total amount of \$64,790.31

The Board discussed sending a survey to Township residents regarding internet service. The survey would ask about their current internet service, and ask if they would like to participate in a committee to look into getting a provider for internet service to the underserved areas in the Township.. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to spend \$600 to send survey with return mailing to township residents regarding internet service.

Township resident Tom Jacobson was present to let the Board know he would not be interested in the Township Weed inspector position. He feels there are infestations in most of the Township.

**ROAD:** a) The Board was notified in November by St. Louis County, that there was a very large pile of brush and downed trees in the right of way on Birchway Road. The County would not plow until that would be removed. The Board hired Rick's Tree Service to chip and remove the brush and trees. Supervisor Stromlund feels there should be a letter written to the residents on the Birchway and Cedarway Roads letting them know this is not allowed. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to send an informational letter to the residents on Birchway and Cedarway Roads explaining that nothing can be left in the right of way.

b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he checked on Mattson Road where there had been water freezing on the road in past years, and there no longer seems to be a drainage problem.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** a) Fire Chief Priolo reported a total of 111 calls for 2016. So far this year there has been three medical, two fire calls, and one vehicle accident.

b) Fire Chief Priolo and the Board discussed the issue with heating in the bay area of the hall. Chief Priolo mentioned the Department has been trying to keep the thermostat turned down to 62 and turning it up for meetings, but the building doesn't heat up very quickly and also it is

hard to come in from a call with equipment that is wet and not have it dry very easily.  
MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to keep the fire hall thermostat set at 70 degrees.

**c)** Fire Chief Priolo continues to work with Pit 56 owner Sarah Rogalla to work on an arrangement for a dry hydrant in the pond by her pit.

**d)** Randall Brothers was at the fire hall on December 30<sup>th</sup> to replace a sensor on the fire hall furnace.

**e)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that the contract for services, and also fire hall and truck lease agreements have been signed by the Fire Department and the Town Board, and rent money has been received.

**RECYCLING:** **a)** Nothing to report.

**HALL:** **a)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that it looks like we have received a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$16,500. There is still a Public Hearing to be held before the process is complete.

**PARK:** **a)** The monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report completed by Supervisor Ron Gajewski shows no hazards and the parks, fields and township grounds are found to be in good condition.

**b)** Supervisor Gajewski explained that he has meet with Todd Signs to explain to them what type of plaque we are looking for to attach to the park benches on the Witte Memorial Trail. Todd Signs will be emailing to the Clerk a copy of what they design.

**c)** Leon Forstrom and Paul Dunaiski will be working on transferring wood from the pavilion picnic tables to the new table frames the Board purchased.

**CEMETERY:** **a)** Nothing to report.

**COMMITTEES:** **a)** Notices have been sent to Special Events Committee members for the upcoming meeting to plan for the Winter Fun Day.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **a).** Noxious Weed Inspector was addressed after Outstanding Bills.

**b)** The Cartway Public Hearing has been reconvened to January 26, 2017 at 5:00 PM because the Petitioner Jonathan Swanson will be out of the country on the originally scheduled date of January 11, 2017.

**c)** The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Training has been completed by Clare R. Stromlund. Supervisors Gajewski and Welsh plan to take the training before the end of January.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **a)** The Board needs to set a date for Budget Meeting and Board of Audit. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to hold the Board of Audit as the last Agenda item at the February Town Board Meeting and to set the Budget Meeting for Thursday February 16, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

**b)** Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that he will not be available to attend the Duluth Area Townships Meeting on January 19, 2017. Other Board members will try to attend.

**c)** The Board needs to appoint election judges for the March 14, 2017 Town Election. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to appoint Leon Forstrom, Bonnie Siiro, Amy Johnson, Clare R. Stromlund and Ron Gajewski as alternate.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.