

The Solway Town Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. via teleconference by Chairperson Clare Stromlund, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Ron Gajewski and Scott Welsh, Clerk Autumn Marquardt, Treasurer Cindy Moe and 4 concerned citizens.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of December 8, 2020 as presented.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report dated December 31, 2020. Treasurer Moe noted that this is a tentative report but that there should not be many changes to the final report. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to transfer funds from the Aggregate account to clear any deficits present in other accounts.

Checking:18210-18243

Beginning Balance	\$221,874.20	
Receipts	\$136,598.60	
Disbursements	\$-16,091.49	
Ending Balance	<u>\$342,381.31</u>	\$342,381.31

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,264.31	
Interest/Deposits	\$9.25	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$109,273.56</u>	<u>\$109,273.56</u>

Total Accounts **\$451,654.87**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

12/10 Proctor Journal/Hermantown Star – Affidavit of Publication.

12/11 Pine Knot News – Affidavit of Publication.

12/28 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Notice of a hearing for proposed amendments to rule governing water quality standards. The hearing in on February 4th at 2PM. No Board action.

12/24 Personnel Concepts – 2021 update notice for labor law posters. Treasurer Moe advised that these posters can be printed off of the Department of Labor Website for free. Clerk Marquardt will update the labor law posters.

12/29 St. Louis County Land and Minerals Dept. – Tax Forfeited Parcels and a request for information. The Board is not interested in purchasing any more land at this time. No Board action.

12/31 St. Louis County – Covid-19 information and resources. This is informational.

01/07 Vic Lund – Notification of a Local Road Improvement Program project application by the Dept. of Transportation to construct a roundabout at the intersection of US 2/MNTH 194 and CSAH 45 (Saginaw Rd.) in the year 2023. Supervisor Gajewski believes this would be an asset to the township as it can be a dangerous intersection. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded

by Stromlund and carried unanimously to support the project. Clerk Marquardt and Supervisor Gajewski will work on a support letter to send in.

01/10 Nancy Carrier – Notice that AARP driving classes are suspended until April.

01/11 James Lindquist – 4th Quarter Aggregate tax reporting form and payment.

01/11 Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust – Consolidated coverage renewal invoice, declaration pages and notice of optional changes. Supervisor Welsh questioned if the roadside mower is included in the insurance coverage. Clerk Marquardt will look through the insurance policy to see if the roadside mower is covered. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the insurance information as presented with the question of the roadside mower liability information to be checked out.

01/12 Sathers Construction and Excavating, LLC – 4th Quarter Aggregate Tax reporting form and payment.

OUTGOING COORESPONDENCE

12/9,12/16,12/23,12/30,1/6 WLSSD – recycling tracking forms

01/12 Minnesota Management and Budget – Pay equity report, MOTION by Gajewski, Seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to have Clerk Marquardt submit the pay equity report.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: a) Treasurer Moe has five additional bills not listed on the Outstanding Bills List:

- Keith Anderson for the amount of \$1,100.00 for snow plowing.
- Butch Lund for the amount of \$74.28 for reimbursement.
- Como Oil and Propane for the amount of \$648.47 for fuel oil for the Town Hall.
- Como Oil and Propane for the amount of \$543.07 for fuel oil for the Fire Hall.
- Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust for the amount of \$9,470.00 for insurance premiums.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to pay all bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills List and the additional bills presented by the Town Treasurer for a total amount of \$70,023.88.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Nothing to Report.

ROAD: a) Supervisor Gajewski spoke with Vic Lund regarding the Local Road Improvement Program project application to resurface Jeffrey Rd. Supervisor Gajewski noted that Mr. Lund sounded optimistic and stated that if the Board moves forward with the application, that the County would write a letter and provide a resolution for the Township. Mr. Lund provided Supervisor Gajewski with the contact information for Steve Krasaway, the St. Louis County road engineer. Supervisor Gajewski met with Mr. Krasaway on the Jeffrey Rd. on January 6th to discuss the project that would take place. Mr. Krasaway advised that if the project were to take place, he believes they would need to go from Sathers Pit to Highway #2 as the section of road just between Maple Grove and Hwy #2 would not qualify on its own. Mr. Krasaway stated that he believes it will cost around \$250,000 to grind up the blacktop and overlay it. There is no cost to submit the application but if it is accepted the Township would need to hire an engineer. The cost of an engineer would be around \$30,000-\$40,000. That cost is not included or reimbursed by the grant. St. Louis County is willing to do all necessary work, but Mr. Krasaway felt that there was a only 5-10% chance that the Township would get the grant. Mr. Krasaway also noted that he felt the project would only help the pit owner and a couple of people who live on the road. Supervisor Gajewski noted that his argument would have been that the road is a

safety concern, but Mr. Krasaway did not feel that there were any safety issues on the road as the surface is wide enough to accommodate traffic. It was also noted that even though the ditches are shallow, the soil gravel content allows for the road to drain and so water is not an issue either. Supervisor Welsh noted that the section of the road is not a true thoroughfare and that its more of a locally known shortcut. Supervisor Gajewski indicated that it may not be worth the time to put in an application. The suggestion was brought up to get estimates in the spring to fix the issues with the road as it may be cheaper to fix it than it would cost for the engineer fees. The application is free to submit however, if it was accepted there would be a commitment to spend the engineer fees. Chairperson Stromlund agreed that waiting until spring to get quotes from local companies to fix the road would be a good idea. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously not to pursue the grant application at this point based on the notes from the County Engineer.

b) The Knoxious Weed report for Solway Township is due. Butch Lund advised that he is unaware of any knoxious weeds that are a problem in our area at this time. Clerk Marquardt will fill out the report.

c) Supervisor Gajewski has been in contact with Joe Cote who is interested in purchasing some land locked property. Mr. Cote spoke with Supervisor Gajewski about the option of a cartway to access the property. Supervisor Gajewski provided information regarding the steps that are required for a cartway as well as the option of obtaining an easement with the property owners as well. No further information has come forward.

d) Butch Lund advised the Board that the brakes on the roadside mower need to be replaced and suggested that they be done before spring. James Lindquist suggested that Greg Bottila could fix the brakes. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to hire Greg Bottila to replace the roadside mower brakes for the cost of up to \$1,000.

FIRE: a) Chief Nick Priolo provided a report via telephone that stated there were 132 calls total in 2020. 95 Medicals, 29 Fires and 8 vehicle accidents. All calls were mutual aid. So far in 2021 the Fire Department has responded to 8 calls: 6 Medicals, 2 Fires and 0 vehicle accidents.

b) The contract and lease agreement for the Fire Department needs to be renewed. The Fire Department has already signed the contract and lease and returned it for the Board to sign. Upon further inspection of the contract it was revealed that the amount the Township pays the Fire Department for protection needed to be increased to \$50,000 from \$45,000. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to renew the hall lease agreement and contract for service with the Fire department with the amendment of \$50,000 paid to the Fire Department for Fire protection.

c) The insurance check for the damage that was done to the heat pans on engine #6 during the snowstorm last year has been received.

d) The Department has completed some flooding of the ice rink; the weather has not been cooperating for them to complete the flooding.

e) The Department now has 3 individuals interested in joining.

f) Clerk Marquardt received a call from Lisa Vogel at the Fire Department regarding St Louis County using the Town Hall as a Covid-19 vaccination clinic. The Fire Department used their hall facility to vaccinate first responders and there was some interest in the location of the Town Hall for a clinic. The Fire Department suggested the use of the Town Hall as the fire trucks need to be left outside and running if they use the Fire Hall. The Board agrees that it is a good idea to let the Town Hall be used as a vaccination clinic. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to let Ms. Vogel know that they can use the hall and that it is preferred that they use the downstairs but if the upstairs needs to be used then it can be. Clerk Marquardt will contact Ms. Vogel to let her know.

g) Horst Blumerich notified Supervisor Gajewski that there was 3" of ice in front of the dumpsters at the recycling shed. Chief Priolo advised that they moved their propane burn up to the upper parking lot to try to avoid the water reaching the recycling shed. The propane burn was part of the class to train individual Fire Fighters.

h) The Fire Department is having a trailer burn training on April 3rd. Clerk Marquardt will put this on the calendar.

RECYCLING: a) The 2021 grant application and 2020 annual report are available to fill out. The grants are completed every year. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to fill out the 2021 grant program application. Clerk Marquardt will fill out the application.

b) Clerk Marquardt reported that there was no new information given at the WLSSD meeting in December. The application process is the same this year. New information will be disbursed regarding materials that cannot be recycled.

HALL: a) The Board needs to set a date for the budget meeting. Last year the meeting was held on the last Monday in February. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to hold the budget meeting on Monday February 22nd at 5PM with the option to meet at the hall and attend via teleconference.

b) Hall rental rules are the same as before at the Town Hall with Covid-19 restrictions.

c) Clerk Marquardt presented the Board with the Emergency Preparedness plan that has been in place. This plan needs to be adopted. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adopt the Solway Township preparedness plan.

d) Supervisor Welsh advised that the process to reclaim the powers to hold the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will need be reclaimed by resolution. A resolution will be brought to the February meeting.

PARK: a) Supervisor Gajewski completed the monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report and stated that there are no safety issues with the park. The maintenance personnel keep the park area in good condition.

b) The electricity to the pavilion and the dugout has been reconnected by Butch Lund and Leon Forstrom.

c) The John Deere tractor lawn deck discharge area has been fixed.

d) Pete Hildre with Hildre Woodworking LLC has provided a quote of \$1,200.00 to paint the basketball backboards and the supports. MOTION by Stromlund seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to hire Hildre Woodworking LLC to paint the basketball back boards, hoops and supports for \$1,200. Supervisor Gajewski will sign the quote and Clerk Marquardt will send it in the mail.

CEMETERY: a) Nothing to report.

b)

COMMITTEES: a) Nothing to report.

b)

OLD BUSINESS: a) The Newsletter has been sent out.

b)

NEW BUSINESS: a) MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to adopt Solway Township Resolution #2021-1

Resolution #2021-1

Appointing Election Judges for March Township Election

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 203B.21, subd. 2 requires the Town Board, as the governing body of the town, to appoint Election Judges for the town election scheduled to be held Tuesday, March 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the election judges must meet the qualifications set out in Minnesota Statutes 204B.19 including eligibility to vote; and

WHEREAS, the minimum number of required election judges for the town election pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 204B.22 has been determined to be three for the March 9, 2021 election for the Town of Sowlay:

BONNIE SIIRO
MARY BUSCH
LEON FORSTROM
BUTCH LUND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Solway hereby authorizes any election judge to be compensated as required by Minnesota Statutes Section 204B.31, in an amount set by the Town Board at \$15.00 per hour for election judges and \$15.00 for the head election judge, which is not less than the prevailing Minnesota minimum wage, plus mileage. The clerk may make election judge appointments to fill vacancies should they occur.

Adopted this 12th, day of January, 2021.

By the Solway Town Board

b) The Covid-19 restrictions for the Annual Election and meeting will change things at the Town Hall. Supervisor Gajewski suggested to use the same set up for the election that was used for the November election. The meeting will be held in person with the option to teleconference into the meeting.

c) Clerk Marquardt is looking for a new Deputy Clerk, the position will be posted on indeed.com as well as in the Proctor Journal. Clerk Marquardt will write up a description and bring the information to the February meeting for review.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.