

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

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as written and distributed from the December 9, 2014 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the following Tentative Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2014.

Checking:15107-15156

Beginning Balance	\$285,188.26	
Receipts	128,994.36	
Disbursements	<u>\$-11,870.61</u>	
Ending Balance	\$402,312.01	\$402,312.01

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$108,592.52	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$108,592.52	<u>\$108,592.52</u>

Total Accounts

\$510,904.53

The Board also reviewed the Treasurers report by fund and a MOTION was made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried authorizing the Treasurer to zero out the fund balances for the year ending 2014.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

12/17 St. Louis County Auditor's Office – Election information for Town Clerks. No board action.

12/30 St. Louis County Planning Department - Notice of informational meeting on Wednesday February 4, 2015 regarding revisions to Ordinance #62 zoning regulations. A copy of the draft Ordinance was enclosed.

12/20 City of Hermantown – Invite to the Town Board to meet with the consulting firm hired by the city of Hermantown to review the operations of its Fire Department. The meeting was January 9th and Fire Chief LaGraves, and Township Supervisor Scott Welsh met with the consulting firm.

1/3 West Duluth Menards - List of authorized purchasers form. The Clerk will complete the form and return it to Menards.

1/3 Minnesota Association of Townships – Notice of Legislative and Research Committee Meetings information.

1/3 Mark Kivi – Completed aggregate tax reporting form.

1/5 Hermantown Menards – List of authorized purchasers form. The Clerk will complete the form and return it to Menards.

1/6 Jim Lindquist – Completed aggregate tax form and payment.

1/8 South St. Louis County Fair Association- Request for support in the form of a sponsorship at the St. Louis County Fair. The Board directed the Clerk to call the Fair Association to let them know the Township could not do a sponsorship, but would make a donation if approved at the Annual Meeting in March.

1/8 Pine Journal – Affidavit of Publication for Township notice of filing for township election.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: The Treasurer has one additional bill in the amount of \$12.50 for the safety deposit box at First National Bank in Proctor to be added to the Outstanding Bills list. Supervisor Gajewski is concerned that there is still some groundwork to be completed by Shelton's Excavating where the new septic system was installed. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to pay Shelton's \$1,000 and hold back \$1,275 until all the ground work is satisfactory completed in the spring. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to pay all outstanding bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list including the additional bill presented by the Treasurer in the amount of \$59,121.05.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) None

ROAD: a) The Clerk continues to gather information to develop a driveway permitting policy to use when residents request to install driveways off Township roads. A policy would insure the correct size culvert would be installed properly. She is checking with other townships to see if they have a policy we can review.

b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that on December 29th he requested that the county sand township intersections and other areas in response to a resident complaint. This was done the same day.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: a) Fire Chief Chris LaGraves reported for the department that there have been 20 calls year-to-date. Chief LaGraves also reported that all members passed the fitness test. The springs on truck #7 have been fixed at Melanson's Repair. Chief LaGraves feels there should be no increase in the contract amount of \$40,000 for 2016. The garage door on bay #1 is not working. Chief LaGraves would like to try a couple of things to remedy this before calling a contractor. The Board gave Chief LaGraves permission to call Overhead Door Company if he could not get the doors working properly. The Chief mentioned that the Department plans to use the gear contamination shower area in the hall for storage. The showers are not being used and the Department could use more storage. The Department has ordered EMS jackets for firefighters to be paid for with the money from bingo fundraisers. These jackets would be worn on medical calls to help identify the firefighters as they arrive on scene. Chief LaGraves is researching another water source besides the Coon's pit on Highway #194 and Canosia. The Department would like to look into getting a UTV that would have track and/or tires to get to places not accessible with a truck. The Department presently has two pick-up type rigs for grass/ brush fires, and Chief LaGraves suggested selling one of them (truck #4) and using the proceeds to purchase the UTV. The Board directed the Chief to bring more information and pictures to the next Town Board meeting. The Chief feels the next big expense will be to replace Engine #1 in about three to four years.

b) The ISO inspection is completed, but there is no word on the Department's rating yet.

c) Chief LaGraves has not heard anything on the FEMA grant applied for to purchase updated equipment.

d) The new rescue rig will be delivered by Stainless and Repair the first week of February.

e) The Board would like to extend a thank you to the Department for flooding the ice rink.

f) Supervisor Scott Welsh reported from the Department's business meeting that the new rescue rig should arrive the first week in February. The Department is ordering new jackets for all firefighters. Supervisor Welsh attended the meeting in Hermantown with the consulting firm that the city has hired to find a solution to issues with their Fire Department. Supervisor Welsh explained to them that Solway contracts with our Department and that the Department is incorporated.

g) New contract for services and fire hall lease need to be signed. The Board discussed the addendum to the service contract that explains the dollar amount the Fire Department is allowed to spend before being required to contact a Board Supervisor. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to allow the Fire Department to spend up to \$1,000 on vehicle or hall maintenance with just the Departments approval; \$1,000 to \$3,000 The Department will need to contact one of the Supervisors; above \$3,000 will need to be addressed at a Board Meeting. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the Fire Hall lease as written. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adopt the Fire Department Contract for Services as written. Chief LaGraves will take the lease and contract to the business meeting for the appropriate signatures and return them to the next Town Board meeting for the Boards signatures.

RECYCLING: **a)** Jim Miller reports things are going good.

HALL: **a)** Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that the sinks in the maintenance room are not in good shape and maybe a lower floor [utility sink would be easier and of more use for the hall custodians. The plumbing for the sink might need to be updated also. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to spend up to \$1,000 to get a new sink for the maintenance room. Leon Forstrom and Supervisor Gajewski will try to pick out a sink for installation by Brad Peterson and Kelsey Dunaiski of All Service Heating.

b) The wiring has been completed for the septic system.

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

b) A new blue whale rider has been ordered to replace the one vandalized at the lower playground.

CEMETERY: **a)** Paul Dunaiski is working with the Clerk to update the cemetery map.

COMMITTEES: **a)** The Winter Fun Day is scheduled for January 31st.

b) There is no word on the county action for Coon's Aggregate conditional use permit other than that it passed at the county Planning and Zoning Board.

OLD BUSINESS: **a)** The newsletter went out.

NEW BUSINESS: **a)** An Absentee Ballot Board must be appointed by the Town Board for the Township Election in March. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to appoint Leon Forstrom, Bonnie Siiro and Terri Jensen as the Absentee Ballot Board.

b) Leon Forstrom, Terri Jensen, Bonnie Siiro, Ron Gajewski and Scott Welsh have been appointed as Election Judges for the March 10, 2015 Township Election.

c) The Board of Audit will be the last agenda item at the February 10, 2015 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Supervisor Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.