

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 Ron Gajewski and Clare Stromlund, Clerk Autumn Marquardt, Treasurer Cindy Moe and five concerned citizens.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of December 10, 2019 as presented.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2019. Treasurer Moe advised that this is a tentative report. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to move surplus funds to deficit accounts and to use aggregate funds to zero out the accounts as needed.

Checking:17743-17776

Beginning Balance	\$262,687.70	
Receipts	\$128,567.31	
Disbursements	<u>\$-12,299.12</u>	
Ending Balance	\$378,955.89	\$378,955.89

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,146.11	
Interest/Deposits	\$18.24	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,164.35	<u>\$109,164.35</u>

Total Accounts **\$488,120.24**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

12/15 Menards Hermantown – 2020 authorized purchaser agreement. Clerk Marquardt, Supervisor Gajewski, Chairperson Welsh, Horst Blumerich, and Jim Madigan will sign the new purchaser agreement. This agreement gives permission to Township employees and supervisors to charge necessary purchases to the Township.

12/16 Duluth News Tribune – Affidavit of publication for the Township Election on March 10, 2020.

12/17 Western Lake Superior Sanitary District – Recycling dumpster pick up schedule for 2020 and 2021. If regular pick up falls on a holiday, Waste Management will pick up the dumpsters on the following day.

12/19 Proctor Journal – Affidavit of publication for the Township Election on March 10, 2020.

12/19 Pine Journal – Affidavit of publication for the Township Election on March 10, 2020.

12/20 St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department – 2019 year end message and Annual Township Reporting Form for noxious weeds. Paul Dunaiki, the former noxious weed inspector, has retired. Butch Lund stated he would be willing to be the new local noxious weed inspector. Mr. Lund mows the roadsides for the Township. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to appoint Butch Lund as the new township weed inspector.

Clerk Marquardt will put together an informational packet for Mr. Lund regarding the noxious weeds that the County would like weed inspectors to look for including Wild Parsnip, Giant Knotweed and Bohemian Knotweed.

12/20 Minnesota Department of Agriculture – 2018 County Agricultural Inspector Annual Report.

12/31 Kivi Aggregate – 4th quarter Aggregate Tax Reporting Form.

01/02 Duluth Area Townships – 2020 Duluth Area Townships meeting schedule and dues bills. The dues payment is included in the outstanding bills.

01/03 St. Louis County Public Works – Information regarding the Teamsters Local #320 possible strike and the effects on snow plowing in the Township. The Township will need to have a backup plan as there will be considerable delays if there are repeated snow storms. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously for Supervisor Gajewski to contact Keith Anderson to see if he is able to plow the Township roads if an emergency or heavy snowfall occurs during the strike.

01/06 U.S. Census Bureau – 2020 Boundary and Annexation Survey. The last survey was completed in 2010. Clerk Marquardt will notify Supervisor Gajewski if she receives a map to see if the cartway extending Jackson Rd. and the cartway that was put in on the west side of the extension are on the map.

01/07 KTM Paving, Inc. – 4th quarter Aggregate Tax Reporting Form and payment.

01/07 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission – Information regarding Minnesota Power seeking annual rate increase and notice to appear at the hearing if desired. No Board Action

01/09 Lake Country Power – Invitation to attend the district meeting on February 6, 2020. No Board Action.

01/13 James Lindquist – 4th quarter Aggregate Tax Reporting Form and payment.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: a) Treasurer Moe has seven additional bills, not listed on the outstanding bills list:

- Kim Kuehl Cleaning Service for the amount of \$726.80 for Town Hall cleaning.
- John Voltzke for the amount of \$25.00 for a Town Hall rental deposit refund.
- Shayna Sheehan for the amount of \$25.00 for a Town Hall rental deposit refund.
- Menards Hermantown for the amount of \$43.96 for four 50lbs bags of ice melt.
- Keith Anderson for the amount of \$2,915.00 for snow plowing, sanding, and use of the loader.
- Victor Lundeen Co. for the amount of \$448.77 for receipt books for the office.
- Portable John for the amount of \$129.00 for the biffie rental.

The final payment to North Shore Bank of Commerce for fire engine #5 has been made.

Treasurer Moe noted some adjustments on the outstanding bills list.

- On page 1, the total amount paid to Como was \$1,130.75.
- On page 3, the total amount paid to Jim Madigan for reimbursement was \$43.58

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to pay all bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list presented by the Town Treasurer and the additional bills presented for a total amount of \$123,925.54.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Supervisor Gajewski spoke with an individual who expressed interest in purchasing property on Jackson Rd. where a cartway was installed. Supervisor Gajewski advised that the cartway is a public access road and if the interested

party would need permission to get to the property he is looking into that he should look into the possibility of an easement. The interested individual questioned who maintains the road if it is public and if it could be made private. Supervisor Gajewski let the gentleman know that although a cartway is a public road it is privately maintained by the property owners who use it. The Board's stance on privatizing cartways in the past has been that they should remain public to provide access to other adjoining properties that may need access. The interested individual seemed to be satisfied with the answers that Supervisor Gajewski supplied.

b) At a previous meeting, Butch Lund requested that the Board look into extending Stonelake Rd. to the end of the property line. The road currently ends at Mr. Lund's driveway, but originally did extend all the way to the property line. During the April road inspection the Board will look into this extension.

ROAD: a) Keith Anderson opened up more parking spaces for the Fire Department, enlarged the parking lot being overreached by the snow loads and opened up space in the upper parking lot with his front end loader.

Fire: a) Chief Nick Priolo gave a report that states there was a total of 148 calls in 2019. They are currently at 9 calls, 5 fires and 4 medicals for the new year. All of the fire calls were mutual aid.

b) The Fire Department has signed the Contract and Lease for the 2020 calendar year and paid their rental fee. There were no changes to the contract or the lease, all three members of the Board signed as well. \$50,000 will be given to the Fire Department as part of this contract.

c) Chief Priolo reported that he still has not heard about the ISO rating.

d) The new entry gear for the Fire Department has been ordered and will be shipped on February 1st.

e) The "No Parking" signs have not been installed yet.

f) Supervisor Gajewski noticed that the light on the generator at the Fire Hall has been orange for a couple of weeks. The light should be green. Chief Priolo advised Clerk Marquardt at the end of the meeting that he had reset the generator and the light was back to green.

g) Supervisor Gajewski advised Chief Priolo that there are dents on doors #1 and #2 at the Fire hall and the insulation is showing. The dents will need to be caulked to avoid moisture leaking in. Chief Priolo advised the Board that the Fire Department will take care of this issue.

h) Chief Priolo advised Clerk Marquardt that the internet at the Fire Hall is not working very well. Treasurer Moe advised that the internet at her home has been in and out since the power outage in the Township on January 8. Clerk Marquardt will contact CenturyLink to verify if this is an area wide issue.

i) Chief Priolo approved of the article that was placed in the Newsletter about driveway width and height. Chief Priolo noted that the article seems to be getting the word out to the residents of the Township.

j) Chief Priolo advised the Board that items have been disappearing from inside the Fire Hall. Supervisor Gajewski suggested that this issue be brought up at the Fire Department business meeting as a member may have borrowed the items and forgot to document it.

k) The new washer was delivered to the Fire Hall. Chief Priolo noted that they still need to get rid of the old washer as it is very heavy and difficult to move. Supervisor Gajewski suggested that he speak with Jim Madigan about moving the washer with the loader.

l) The Fire Department has made a resolution regarding driving requirements for Department members.

m) The Fire Department is actively searching for a new accountant.

RECYCLING: a) Horst Blumerich and Clerk Marquardt attended a meeting at Western Lake Superior Sanitary District on January 9th. Mr. Blumerich advised the Board that there will be no changes on the current forms that are being used to document the amount recycled. A new flagging system is being put into place to ensure only full dumpsters are being picked up for cost efficiency. Lorilee Blais from WLSSD will meet with Mr. Blumerich to set the new system into motion. Clam shell plastic containers cannot be recycled even though they have a number on them. These containers should be thrown into your trash at home. Ms. Blais will bring a new replacement lock to Mr. Blumerich when she comes out to demonstrate the new flagging system. Waste Management advised Ms. Blais of a better way to lock the dumpsters to avoid the locks breaking. WLSSD advised that recycling needs to be removed from any container bag that is brought in. Shredded paper needs to be placed into a paper bag that is rolled up until an update is given. In the future shredded paper will not be accepted as recycling. Mr. Blumerich advised Ms. Blais that the plastic dumpster lids have a tendency to bow open creating the opportunity for individuals to place things into the dumpsters when the attendant is not around. Supervisor Gajewski noted that the plastic lids are not weather proof either.

HALL: a) The Department of Public Health performed their water test at the Town Hall on December 17th. Clerk Marquardt has not heard anything from the Department of Public Health. b) Jim Madigan provided two books to the Board with outdoor lighting options. Mr. Madigan had expressed to Supervisors Welsh and Gajewski that he feels using LED bulbs would be more cost efficient. Chairperson Welsh advised that although the LED fixtures would cost a little more, it is believed that they will last longer than the bulbs. Chairperson Welsh will look at these books and bring any suggestions he may have to the next meeting.

PARK: a) Supervisor Gajewski completed the monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report and advised that the park is in good shape. b) Jim Lindquist has removed the snow from the ice rink and the Fire Department has put a few layers of ice on the rink. It is hoped that the rink will be ready for the Winter Fun Day on January 25th.

CEMETERY: a) Nothing to report.

COMMITTEES: a) The Special Events Meeting was held on January 6th. Supervisor Gajewski noted that there was a nice turnout of members for the meeting. Mary Busch passed out fliers around the Township, and the hayrides will take place as planned.

OLD BUSINESS: a) The Essentia Health Wellness Center has been very well received in the area. Supervisor Gajewski noted that the building does not feel crowded and noticed many families there together. The Wellness Center is a great asset to the community.

b) Supervisor Gajewski attended the 2020 Multi-Hazard Mitigation plan meeting and advised that the hazards have remained the same. Supervisor Gajewski noted that because of the Townships involvement and attendance at the meetings that if a disaster should occur, relief funds can be received by the Township.

c) Clerk Marquardt advised the Board that it would cost .41 cents per \$100 worth of coverage for the office computer, laptop, and printer. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to add insurance coverage for the office computers, laptops, printers, and any AV equipment the township may have at \$3,000 worth of coverage.

d) Chairperson Welsh questioned if there was a need to have a Comprehensive Land use Committee due to the County being in charge of land uses and permitting. It was agreed that there is no need for the Committee as the County will include the Township in its plan

NEW BUSINESS: **a)** The Board will support Lobby Day; no information has been received on the date.

b) Clerk Marquardt received a request for a closed meetings minutes. Per state statutes closed meeting minutes cannot be opened without a court order or resolution. Attorney John Bray has been contacted and is responding to the request for the Board. There is no Board action that needs to be taken. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously for Attorney John Bray to send a final letter regarding the request if needed.

c) The 2021 budget meeting has been set for February 24th, 2020 at 5:00PM.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Date Approved

Town Board Chair

Town Clerk