

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

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of December 11, 2018 as presented.

MOTION made by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the tentative monthly Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2018.

Checking:17227-17269

Beginning Balance	\$239,688.15	
Receipts	134,493.83	
Disbursements	<u>\$-65,197.49</u>	
Ending Balance	\$308,984.49	\$308,984.49

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,037.01	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,037.01	<u>\$109,037.01</u>

Total Accounts **\$418,021.50**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

- 12/13 Pine Journal** - Affidavit of Publication for notice of filing for Township election.
- 12/17 Lakeview Flooring** - Quote to refinish wood floors in the town hall. To be discussed under Hall.
- 12/17 Minnesota Secretary of State's Office** - Election information for Town Clerks. No board action.
- 12/24 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development** - Copy of the Conditional Use Permit Application from Michael W. Parrott to allow his property to be used as a wedding venue. To be discussed under Committees.
- 12/28 Western Lake Superior Sanitary District** - Notice for Jan 15th meeting for Township officials. Town Clerk Regena Merritt will attend along with Paul Dunaiski.
- 1/14 Kivi Trucking** - Aggregate Tax reporting form and payment for the 4th quarter of 2018.
- 1/7 Dunbar of Duluth** - Quote to refinish the wood floors in the town hall. To be discussed under Hall.
- 1/7 Newberg's Flooring** - Quote to refinish the wood floors in the town hall. To be discussed under Hall.
- 1/7 Range Association of Municipalities and Schools** - Information regarding their association and instructions on how to join. Solway Township is not within the Range Association area so not allowed to join. The Township did send a resolution in support of their work to provide broadband to townships and rural areas.
- 1/7 St. Louis County Auditor's Office** – Signed Lawful gambling permit for the Fire Department. The signed permit was given to Firefighter Veronica Priolo.

1/8 Sather's Construction - Aggregate Tax reporting form and payment for the 4th quarter of 2018.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: a) Treasurer Moe has five additional bills as follows:

- Keith Anderson for snowplowing in the amount of \$800.00.
- Kim Kuehl Cleaning for town hall cleaning services in the amount of \$908.50.
- Emergency Apparatus Maintenance for work on fire trucks in the amount of \$3,190.05.
- Solway Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$45,000 for yearly contract for firefighting services.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to pay all bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list presented by the Town Treasurer and additional bills presented for a total amount of \$83,678.54.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: Nothing to report.

ROAD: a) The Town Clerk was contacted by a resident on the Ayres Road with complaints of people driving up the Ayres Road not realizing it is a Dead End road and turning around in driveways even to the point of driving up their driveway to the house and garage before turning around. The resident is asking if the Township could put up a "Dead End" sign, hoping this might help. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to order a "Dead End" sign and installation for the Ayres Road. The Clerk will order the sign from St. Louis County and have them install it.

b) The Fire Department had reported last month that when they responded to a car fire at a residence on the Gaus Road during a snowstorm one of the fire trucks got stuck in the driveway and had a very hard time getting out. The driveway was very narrow and curvy. The Department is concerned about access to this property if there is another call. The Board discussed viewing the driveway in the summer to see its condition or sending a letter to the homeowner explaining that if the driveway is not passable for fire trucks the Department might not be able to respond. It was also discussed that Chairperson Gajewski and Fire Chief Priolo could visit the homeowner in person to discuss the situation. The Board directed the Clerk to ask John Bray if the Township and Fire Department are within their rights to write a letter stating if the driveway is not accessible that the Department would not be able to answer calls.

c) Supervisor Stromlund brought up the idea of using Couri and Ruppe for some of the Township's legal services as they put on a Legal Seminar for free every October. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to consider using Couri and Ruppe law firm for some of the Township's legal services.

Fire: Chief Nick Priolo reported a total of 130 calls as of December 31, 2018. Of these calls there were 45 fires, 73 medical calls and 12 vehicle accidents. The Department has had two medical calls so far this year.

b) The Department is applying for a FEMA grant in the amount of \$35,000 for equipment and the Department should hear by next April.

c) The yearly Contract for Services and Fire Hall Lease are due for signing. The Board has signed two copies of each and Chief Priolo will bring the copies to the next Fire Department business meeting for the needed signatures from the Department and return them to the Clerk.

d) The Department found that the reported leak on tanker #3 is just an imperfection in the bondo that made a bubble under the paint and safety strip decals. The Department feels they can peel off the decals and paint the area with primer and get decals from Elite Graphics to replace the ones covering the problem. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and

carried unanimously to allow up to \$1,500 to remove the bondo that has bubbled and redo the rear graphics on tanker #3.

e) Engine #6 has been fixed and is no longer leaking.

f) Engine #1 leaks down to half a tank. This started after sliding off the driveway on the Gaus Road. Fire Chief Priolo has contacted EAM for a quote to repair the truck but has not heard back from them. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to allow up to \$2,500 to have EAM take care of the leak in Engine #1. Chief Priolo will make arrangements for the work to be completed.

g) Posts on the old Facebook Fire Department page by Jeff Nelson are continuing. The Clerk will check with John Bray to see if a letter went out to him asking him to stop using that page as if it was an official page and that he was still a member of the Department.

h) The cistern in the fire hall has been pumped, but nothing has been done to allow the tank to be drained from inside the building.

RECYCLING: **a)** Paul Dunaiski reports all is going well.

HALL: **a)** Chairperson Gajewski has three quotes for town hall floor refinishing. The first is from Dunbars of Duluth in the amount of \$5,643.00. This is for sanding and a three coat system using water base products with neutral stain and two finish coats. The second is from Newberg's Flooring in the amount of \$7,165.00 for sanding and using an oil base finish. The third is from Lakeview Flooring in the amount of \$9,988.00. This is also for sanding and a three part system using water base products. Dunbars has a dust containment system to help with dust in the building. The Board discussed oil base vs water base products. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the quote from Dunbars of Duluth to sand and refinish the wood floor in the town hall for \$5,643.00. They will need seven days to complete the job, during this time the upstairs of the hall will not be used.

PARK: **a)** The building of the warming shed is progressing slowly, but hopefully it can be used for the Winter Fun Day on January 26th.

b) The Community Development Block Grant for handicapped accessible playground equipment has been completed. The Township should receive the remaining funds shortly.

c) Town Board has given Esko AYSA permission to use the Solway Township fields next summer. They are now asking if there will be a fee. The Board decided to allow Esko to use the fields free of charge. Deputy Clerk Paulette Barnard will contact Esko AYSA and let them know there will not be a charge to use the fields.

d) Chairperson Gajewski is wondering if a tent will be needed for skaters to use during the Winter Fun Day. The Board thought the warming shed will be useable for shelter even if it is not completed. The Board asked the Fire Department to flood the rink as soon as it is cleared off.

e) The monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report completed by Chairperson Gajewski shows no hazards and the parks, fields and township grounds are found to be in good condition

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

COMMITTEES: **a)** Winter Fun Day is scheduled for January 26th with a Special Events Committee planning meeting on Monday January 14th.

b) The office has received a copy of a conditional use permit application from St. Louis County Planning and Community Development. The applicant is landowner Michael W. Parrott who is asking to use his property as a wedding venue. The Board is concerned if there will be

enough parking as they would not want parking on the Sandberg Road because of its width. Will there be any restrictions/regulations if alcohol is served. Chairperson will write a resolution to present at the next Town Board meeting and if approved would be sent to the County Planning and Community Development Department.

OLD BUSINESS: a) Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS: a) The Board has set February 25th at 5:00 PM for the budget meeting.
b) Treasurer Moe reported that Lobby Day will be February 20th and there will be a bus leaving from Solway Town Hall at 11:00 AM. St. Louis County Association of Township Officers will have a booth at the event.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.