

The Solway Town Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Ron Gajewski, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisor Scott Welsh, Supervisor Clare Stromlund, Clerk Autumn Marquardt, Deputy Clerk Amy Johnson, and 8 concerned citizens.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of September 14, 2021 as presented.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report dated September 30, 2021.

Checking:18542-18576

Beginning Balance	\$436,153.30	
Receipts	\$340.00	
Disbursements	<u>\$-15,117.55</u>	
Ending Balance	\$421,375.75	421,375.75

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,316.22	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,316.22	<u>\$109,316.22</u>

Total Accounts **\$530,691.97**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

9/30 Minnesota Department of Health – Annual drinking water inspection report. The results show that there are no issues with the water.

10/4 Keith Anderson – Snowplowing and removal quote from Keith Anderson for the 2021/2022 year. The rates are the same as they have been in the past. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept Keith Anderson's quote for the 2021/2022 year.

10/4 Minnesota Power – Information regarding the Transmission Line Project. Supervisor Welsh noted that he has not received any phone calls regarding this matter. On the last page of the notice the route of the project is shown, the route is not within the township borders.

10/5 Western Lake Superior Sanitary District – Notice that the 2022 budget was approved. The district wide allocation for Solway Township is \$1.376. The amount can be paid in 2 separate payments.

10/7 Kivi Aggregate – 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

OUTGOING COORESPONDENCE

9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6 WLSSD – Recycling tracking forms.

9/14 St. Louis County – Bingo permit application.

9/16 Kiffmeyer, Bakk, Tomasoni, Murphy – Support letters for Senate file 1949 and Senate file 1969.

Supervisor Welsh noted that he received a call regarding some tax forfeited land on the Morris Thomas Rd. Chairperson Gajewski also received calls regarding this property and had invited the individual to attend the meeting but they did not. Supervisor Welsh referred the individual to

the County Commissioner Keith Musolf and St. Louis County Planning and Community Development. Chairperson Gajewski also suggested to the individual to contact Sean Worthington the County Assessor. There has been no further inquiries into this matter.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: a) Treasurer Moe was not present at the meeting. There were no additional bills that were not listed on the Outstanding Bills List: The amount of the claim for Sinnott Contracting changed to \$23,400.00 to pay both outstanding invoices for the work on the parking lot and basketball court, seal coating, crack filling and stripe painting.

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 with the addition of the \$15,600.00 for the second invoice for Sinnott Contracting changing the amount due to \$23,400.00 for a total amount of \$42,095.24.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Chairperson Gajewski received an inquiry from Mr. Scott Judnick regarding the process to go through to have a cartway. Mr. Judnick owns landlocked property that he is looking for access to. Chairperson Gajewski explained what the process would be as well as the option of obtaining an easement from an adjoining property owner as well. Mr. Judnick had stated that he was going to look into this. There has been no further contact on this matter as yet. Mr. Judnick is aware of his options.

ROAD: a) Bob Rodda has suggested to Chairperson Gajewski that all of the roads be graded one more time before winter. This should help ensure that the roads will not have any mud holes in the spring.

b) Bob Rodda has requested that the Board look into adding blacktop aprons to the railroad crossing approaches on the S. Jeffrey and Jerry Rds. to avoid the grader having to go all the way on the tracks at crossings. The requested amount of blacktop apron is 50ft and would be on both sides of the crossings. The Board will consider this for next year and will look at the crossings during next years road inspection.

c) Sinnott has completed the parking lot and basketball court patching, crack filling, seal coating and paint striping. This was covered under outstanding bills.

d) There is a beaver dam on the White Pine Tributary crossing the Van Gassler Rd. that is causing water to back up. Chairperson Gajewski has spoken to Deserae Hendrickson from the Minnesota Department of Fisheries who advised that the issue can be taken care of by the road authority. Chairperson Gajewski has also spoken to Andy Olsen at St. Louis County, they have a similar issue with the dams upstream and would like the township to take care of the dam on the Van Gassler Rd. first. Butch Lund suggested that Keith Burgraff could trap the beaver and Mr. Olsen also suggested Paul Zura. The Board feels that it makes the most sense to use the same trapper that the County will use. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to hire Paul Zura to trap the beaver on the Van Gassler Rd. so that the Beaver dam can be taken down.

e) Minnesota Power has gone out to look at the willow tree on the Jerry and Sandberg Rds. And agreed that they would need to remove a portion of the tree to avoid it hitting the power lines when the township cuts the rest of the branches down. Minnesota Power will be completing the work soon.

FIRE: a) Chief Priolo provided a Department report that stated there has been a total of 120 calls YTD: 31 fire, 83 medical, and 6 vehicle accidents. All calls were mutual aid and only one fire call was in the township.

b) Brandon Porter has been in contact with Caldwell heating and cooling who has ordered all the parts and will install the new air pressure system in the Fire Hall when they come in. Caldwell also addressed an issue with the water pressure and discovered it is a problem with the filters, they are taking care of this as well.

c) The Fire Department bingo has been cancelled. The Department does not feel that it would be safe to have so many individuals in the building at one time due to Covid.

d) The Hot Rod Swap Meet raised \$141.00 in donations for the Solway Volunteer Fire Department.

e) Chief Priolo advised the Board that there have been inquiries of concern regarding truck #4 being used as a Chief Vehicle. Chief Priolo provided a report to the Board that shows that call times have dropped from almost 18 minutes down to about 7 minutes with him having the truck. The Board had approved of Chief Priolo using this vehicle a few months back and Chairperson Gajewski advised that if any inquiries come in they can be transferred to the Board. Brandon Porter also noted that he believes this will ensure that other members do not feel that they will need to speed to get to the hall and to the scene of an incident.

f) There are 6 new members on the Fire Department, all of them are in class and are expected to finish sometime in January or February.

RECYCLING: a) Horst Blumerich advised the Board that someone thinks they dropped their watch in the dumpster on Saturday. The individual was looking for permission to look through the dumpster but Mr. Blumerich wanted to make sure that the Board approved of this first. The Board does not have a problem with her coming to look for the item. Clerk Marquardt will notify the resident.

b) Mr. Blumerich advised the Board that he has bought a new pickup/reach tool.

HALL: a) Clerk Marquardt advised the Board that redistricting will be happening in 2022. She does not have any further information on this right now and just wanted to make the Board aware.

b) Clerk Marquardt has been having a lot of issues with the office phone. She has contacted Centurylink several times in the last two months as the phone will not ring and she cannot make calls from the office. Centurylink is going to check the main phone line. If there are no problems with the line, Clerk Marquardt would like to purchase a new phone to see if the issue will be resolved. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to authorize Clerk Marquardt to purchase a new phone for the hall if needed.

PARK a) Chairperson Gajewski completed the monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report and stated that there are no safety issues with the park.

b) The property lines need to be brushed and the posts need to be painted as well. Leon Forstrom and Butch Lund will take care of this.

c) The electric outlet box cover at the pavilion needs to be replaced. Mr. Forstrom has already taken care of this.

d) Mr. Forstrom has straightened the reflector posts at the Highway #2 entrance.

e) Mr. Forstrom is requesting the purchase of a trailer to haul garbage items that are picked up along the sides of the road. The purchase of a trailer would help prevent damage to personal vehicles as well as limit the amount of lifting that is needed to load materials for disposal.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously for Mr. Forstrom to collect prices on different trailers and bring the information to the next meeting.

CEMETERY: a) Butch Lund and Leon Forstrom have leveled a few of the headstones at the cemetery. Chairperson Gajewski questioned if they should look into have North East Regional Correction Center come out to do the headstone straightening. This will be looked into in the spring.

b) Chairperson Gajewski has not heard from Chris Grussendorf regarding the dead tree in the cemetery. This should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

c) Some of the plastic posts along the driveway are bent and need to be replaced. Leon Forstrom advised that the posts have been on back order. Chairperson Gajewski suggested that something new could be purchased that may not bend so easily. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to allow up to \$250 to be spent on cemetery posts.

COMMITTEES: a) The Special Events Committee has decided not to hold a Halloween Carnival this year due to the ongoing Covid Pandemic.

OLD BUSINESS: a) There is no new news on Steve Lacari performing an aggregate audit for the township.

b) Clerk Marquardt looked into two different Caterers for the appreciation dinner that is taking place on November 4th. SarahMae catering does not serve the meals but they do require masks and hand sanitization before going through the serving line. Kurtz catering will serve the meal but it will cost \$2.00 more per plate to do so. The Board feels that SarahMae catering does a good job and the meals have been well received. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to go with SarahMae catering for the Appreciation Dinner and to allow up to \$15.00 per plate with a 20% tip. Clerk Marquardt will work out the menu.

c) The Courri and Ruppe Legal Seminar will be taking place on Saturday October 16th. Clerk Marquardt needs a head count so that she can register everyone who would like to attend. Chairperson Gajewski, Supervisor Welsh, Deputy Clerk Johnson and Clerk Marquardt will attend.

d) Supervisor Welsh has provided a spreadsheet to the Board with the wages of surrounding townships as well as the percentiles for townships in Minnesota. Solway Township is in a competitive area for wages when comparing to other places for Supervisors, Clerks, Treasures, and Deputies. The Recycling Attendant is on the high end and the Maintenance/Grounds Keeper is low. Chairperson Gajewski suggested an increase of \$1.00 across the Board. Butch Lund noted that Leon Forstrom carries a lot of planning responsibilities for the work and he feels that his wage should be increased more. The Board agreed with Mr. Lund. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to increase the wages by \$1.00 for the Supervisors, Clerk, Treasurer, Deputies, Groundskeeper Assistant and Recycling attendant and \$4.00 for the Head Maintenance/Groundskeeper. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously for wage increases to begin on November 1, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS: a) The DAT meeting will be taking place on Thursday October 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the Rice Lake Town Hall. Clerk Marquardt will attend this meeting. The CAT meeting will be taking place on Wednesday October 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Cotton Town Hall.

Supervisor Welsh, Chairperson Gajewski, and Deputy Clerk Johnson will attend this meeting in person. Clerk Marquardt will attend virtually.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.