

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 5 concerned citizens.

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

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report dated September 30, 2020.

Checking:18090-18121

Beginning Balance	\$283,743.49	
Receipts	\$554.25	
Disbursements	<u>\$-16,172.08</u>	
Ending Balance	\$268,125.66	\$268,125.66

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,227.90	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,227.90	<u>\$109,227.90</u>

Total Accounts **\$377,353.56**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

9/14 Jane Brown – Maintenance work authorization form for CenturyLink. Clerk Marquardt advised Ms. Brown to contact the city where the work is taking place.

9/22 Jason Janesich – A request for Township approval and support to expand Mediacom services to a small section of Solway Township. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to send a favorable reply stating if residents seek the service and that the cables don't run through the bottom of the ditch, then the Board supports Mediacom services to be brought into the Township. The cable could run on the shoulder of the road or on the back side of the ditch.

9/24 Carlton County Soil Improvement Program – Notification of a wood ash and/or lime application permit for 4262 Solway Rd. No Board Action

9/24 Carlton County Soil Improvement Program – Notification of a wood ash and/or lime application permit for 6785 St. Louis River Rd. No Board Action.

9/24 Carlton County Soil Improvement Program – Notification of a wood ash and/or lime application permit for 3986 Lindahl Rd. No Board Action.

9/29 John Childers – John Childers contacted Supervisor Welsh at home with questions regarding the end of his employment/volunteer work for the Township. Mr. Childers was concerned that he had been fired from his position. The Board reiterated that Mr. Childers was not fired and that he would still be allowed to work for the Township with a letter from his doctor stating that he is in the health to do so.

10/1 Western Lake Superior Sanitary District – Notification of the allocation due from Solway Township for Western Lake Superior Sanitary District. The 2021 allocation amount is \$1,434.00 due July 1st, 2021 and December 1st, 2021.

10/2 St. Louis County Auditor – Phil Chapman – Email notice of a CARES Act block election grant that is available for Townships. The Secretary of State used a default allocation mechanism to determine that Solway Township has \$1,006 in funds available. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the grant by adopting resolution 2020-6.

Resolution 2020-6

WHEREAS, The Town Board of Solway Township hereby acknowledges that the St. Louis County Board passed resolution 20-457 pm September 22, 2020;

WHEREAS, A default allocation mechanism as determined by the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State was used;

WHEREAS, the sum of \$1,006 will be provided by the County to the municipality under the CARES Act grant to which the county is the Grantee;

WHEREAS, the municipality acknowledges that it is subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1 through 5, 7 through 11 and 13 through 15 of the 2020 CARES Act Grant Agreement as if it were the Grantee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Solway Township accepts the 2020 CARES Act grant in the amount of \$1,006 from St. Louis County for the 2020 election cycle.

Adopted this 13th day of October, 2020

Yeas – Gajewski, Stromlund, Welsh

Nays- None

By the Solway Town Board

10/6 Kivi Aggregate – 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

10/8 James Lindquist – 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

10/12 Shelton Excavating- 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

10/13 Pit 56, Inc. – 2nd quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

10/13 Pit 56, Inc. – 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

On 10/6 Clerk Marquardt filled out the CARES Act reporting form reporting the office laptop and gotomeeting expenses as necessary due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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

- Grand Forks Fire Equipment for the amount of \$1,841.23 for a new set of turnout gear.
- Smittys Automotive for the amount of \$337.00 for two batteries.

Treasurer Moe stated that she received two statements from Emergency Apparatus Maintenance. The statements need to be checked to see if they been paid before she writes a check. If the statement has not been paid, she will add it to the next months bills.

Supervisor Welsh questioned if the claim made out for Perrault Construction was for the rotten wood on the Fire Hall. Supervisor Gajewski explained that the claim is for the replacement of two by eights along the eaves facia along with the replacement of screws and some caulking. Jim Perrault advised Supervisor Gajewski that he believes that the damage was caused by some moisture escaping from vents in the Fire Hall.

Supervisor Gajewski questioned the claim that was made out for the Arrowhead Dog Agility Association. Supervisor Gajewski stated that he believes that there is a flat rental fee for this association and that no refunds are to be given out. Treasurer Moe stated that she will look at past claims to see if they have received refunds in the past. Clerk Marquardt will check to see what the most recent agreement is between the Township and the Arrowhead Dog Agility Association. The Association is not located in the Township, so they are paying to use the facility. A check will be put together once it is clear if there should be a refund and what it should be. The information will be brought to the next meeting.

MOTION by Stromlund, 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 \$78,298.79

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Diane Hartley contacted Clerk Marquardt requesting that a no dumping sign be placed at the end of Jerry Rd. Ms. Hartley stated that several animal carcasses were placed at the end of her road near the driveway which was causing an increase in birds that were fighting over the carcasses. Ms. Hartley spoke with the DNR about the “no dumping” sign who suggested she bring the request to the Town Board. Supervisor Gajewski drove down the Jerry Rd. to check it out and says that remains of the dumped animals had been mostly scavenged. There are not any other roads that have a “no dumping” sign on them. The Board cannot recall this being an issue in the past. The Board also agrees that more dumping happens on the Berquist Rd. and the south end of the Sandberg Rd. Supervisor Welsh questioned if adding a sign would change anything. MOTION by Stromlund seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to deny the request to put any no dumping sign on any of the township roads at this time.

b)

ROAD: a) The Bailey Rd. turn around has been completed. The turn around has been expanded due to a request put in by St. Louis County so the larger snowplows do not get stuck.

b) The fallen trees that were in the right of ways that could have been in the way for snowplows have been take care of by Leon Forstrom and Butch Lund.

c) Keith Anderson has put in a quote for the snow plowing at the town hall for the 2020-2021 season. Treasurer Moe advised that the quote remains the same as last year. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept Keith Andersons snowplow quote for the 2020-2021 season.

d) All of the roadwork that was contracted out to Jim Lindquist has been completed. Supervisor Gajewski noted that all the roads are in rather good shape. Supervisor Welsh noted that the county never completed the pothole filling on the Jeffrey Rd. and that there are a few

areas between Maple Grove and Highway 2 that are breaking away on the side and falling into the ditch. This is an issue that can be inquired about in the spring. Supervisor Gajewski stated that no major work has been done on the Jeffrey Rd. for several years.

FIRE: a) Chief Nick Priolo provided a report via telephone that stated there have been 108 calls to date. 75 Medicals, 28 Fires and 5 vehicle accidents. All calls were mutual aid.

b) Chief Priolo advised that Great Plains Fire has requested pictures of the elbow on tanker #3 that needs to be fixed to get an estimate.

c) Chief Priolo contacted Supervisor Welsh regarding some damage that happened to engine #6 last winter. When out on a call where some power lines had come down, the belly pans that keep the pumps warm so the water won't freeze on engine #6 had been ripped off. In order to get this truck fixed, it needs to go down to Wisconsin. Supervisor Welsh is wondering if the insurance would cover this. Clerk Marquardt will check with MATIT to see if the damage will be covered. Pictures of the damage have been sent to the company that will be fixing the truck. The Board would like Chief Priolo to get an estimate. Supervisor Gajewski stated that the next meeting will be into November and inquired if they should set a dollar amount for the work that needs to be done. Chairperson Stromlund and Supervisor Welsh agree that the work will need to be done no matter what. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to take engine #6 to Wisconsin to have it fixed so that it will be ready for winter and then see if the insurance will cover it.

d) Repairs to the broken ball valve on engine #7 have not been completed yet as the Department is still responding to grass fire calls.

e) Chief Priolo noted that the batteries from Smitty's Auto that were included in the add ons for the bills, were for engine #5.

f) The new extraction gear has been delivered. The Fire Department is waiting for batteries and chargers before they go into service.

g) Chief Priolo advised the Board that during a propane burn training on Saturday, a Fire Fighter received burns when the wind kicked up and the flames went around the water barrier created by the nozzle of the fire hose. This Fire Fighter received 3rd degree burns on his arm from the shoulder to the forearm, on his head by his ear, and he received thermal burns on his toes from the steel toe boots getting so hot. The Fire Fighter was wearing a new set of gear that was included in 5 sets of gear that the Board approved the purchase of earlier in the year. A new set of gear will need to be purchased to replace the gear that was ruined in the training. Supervisor Welsh suggested checking with the insurance company to see if this will be covered. The Board agrees that the gear needs to be replaced. It was suggested that the Board replace the gear now and possibly purchase one less set of gear in the future. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of one set of turnout gear to replace the gear that was damaged during the propane burn training at the cost of \$1,841.20.

h) The Town Board extends their wish to the Fire Fighter who was injured and hope for his speedy recovery.

i) Supervisor Gajewski noted that Morin's Window and Siding advised they are willing to fix the ice guard that has fallen off the Fire Hall and check the others as well. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously that Morin's Window and Siding be paid to fix the ice guard that fell off and to check the others. This will be completed when the rain gutters on the town hall are replaced.

j) There are no new members for the Fire Department. Chief Priolo also noted that 2 members have moved and left the Department and possibly another 2 will be quitting soon. This will put the department down to 10 members. Supervisor Gajewski suggested that the Fire Department could go door to door to recruit new members to the Department.

RECYCLING: a) Three sides of the recycling shed have been sided. The man door that Morin's Window and Siding had donated to the building did not work. They are purchasing a new man door for the building.

b) Supervisor Gajewski explained that they sort the recyclables so that they can be weighed individually to know how much of each item is recycled before they get dumped into the truck. Horst Blumerich stated that they are only weighing the cardboard. Clerk Marquardt will contact Lorilee Blais to find out why they are not weighing all the recyclables.

c) A section of the old carpet runner that was in the basement of the town hall has been placed in the recycling shed. Horst Blumerich stated that this is enough for his office and that nothing else needs to be replaced in the building.

d)

HALL: a) Clerk Marquardt received a letter from Gov Office requesting a letter from the Board so that they can change the contact information for their office. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to send a letter to correct the record and to remove Theresa Jensen as the authorized contact for Gov Office.

b) The rain gutters are scheduled to be replaced in October.

c) The window screen by the handicapped ramp is ripped. Leon Forstrom stated that the glass on the storm window is also duct taped in. Supervisor Gajewski noted that the window is broken and not able to be opened. Mr. Forstrom suggested removing the screen as the window cannot be used anyway.

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 things in good shape.

b) The new playground equipment has been installed. Jim Lindquist donated his time, use of equipment and the 7 yards of pea rock that was used to fill in the playground area. This would have cost the township \$615 total. The Board thanks Mr. Lindquist for his generous donation.

c) The pea rock that was donated was used on the middle and lower playground as well as around the new equipment.

d) The portable biffie at the Munger School field has been removed for the winter season.

e) The old weld on the roadside mower broke. Butch Lund had it rewelded as well as installing a new bushing. The cost of the repairs came to \$100. The old mower just barely made it through the roadside mowing this year. The new mower will be installed this winter for use next spring.

CEMETERY: a) 3 burials: Albin Savo: September 12th, Rebecca Wilson: September 20th and Ronald Nylund: October 3rd.

b) Remaining Decorations will be removed. Solar lights are allowed year round.

c) The flag and solar light will be retired until spring.

COMMITTEES: a) The Board will table the decision on whether to have an appreciation dinner month by month. Supervisor Welsh expressed that he did not think that it should be done. The board agreed to table this until the November meeting.

b)

OLD BUSINESS: a) John Bray sent a letter to Sarah Rogalla, the owner of Pit 56, Inc. regarding her 2nd quarter aggregate tax. Ms. Rogalla stopped into the office and dropped off both 2nd and 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting forms and payments.

b) Clerk Marquardt shared the packet that was provided to her for the L&R meetings that took place in September. Motions were made on all resolutions that were provided to move them to the Minnesota Association of Townships annual meeting. Treasurer Moe advised the Board that the annual meeting will be taking place in November via Zoom and that this will be the last year that the meeting will be held in November.

c) The Board has decided to spend the \$48,975.00 in CARES Act funding in the following ways: The office laptop that made it so the Clerk could work from home during the pandemic, gotomeeting which enables the township to hold town board meetings via teleconference during the pandemic, and the remaining \$48,151.46 will be given to the Proctor School District to cover their COVID-19 related expenses. Two resolutions were passed regarding the CARES Act funds.

**Resolution 2020-5
Town of Solway
St. Louis County, Minnesota
Resolution Expending Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Funds**

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota provided the Township with local government aid funding through the Federal CARES act to mitigate the unexpected costs and burdens of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Township;

WHEREAS, Federal guidance on CARES Act expenditures allows the Township to be reimbursed for their COVID-19 related expenses if the Board of Supervisors reasonably believes the expenses meet the follow three criteria:

1. The expense must be necessary in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on the Township;
2. The expense was not accounted for in the Township's budget passed as of March 27, 2020, and could not be funded using a line item, allotment, or other allocation within the budget;
3. The expense was incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, the Township Board will follow the rules and guidance provided by the Federal Government and State of Minnesota concerning the use of CARES Act funding;

WHEREAS, the Township has identified the following expense or expenses for the use of the Township's CARES Act funding:

1. Office Laptop
2. Gotomeeting

WHEREAS, the expense of Office Laptop is a necessary part of the Township's response to the COVID-19 pandemic because:

The Clerk was able to work remotely during the stay at home order.

WHEREAS, the expense of gotomeeting is a necessary part of the Township's response to the COVID-19 pandemic because:

This enables individuals to attend the regular Town Board meetings via teleconference during the pandemic.

WHEREAS, the Township Board finds the expenses listed herein to be necessary parts of the Township's response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Township Board finds the expenses listed herein were not accounted for in the budget passed as of March 27, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Township Board desires to transfer its CARES Act funding allocation to the School of Proctor;

WHEREAS, The Township Board finds the expenses listed herein to be authorized uses of public funds that serve a public purpose;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Township Board elects to use its CARES Act funding on the expenses listed herein.

Adopted October 13, 2020.

By the Solway Township Board

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 2020-5.

**Resolution 2020-7
To Transfer Excess CARES Act Funds To Another Government Entity**

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, on March 27th, 2020, the Federal Government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, to distribute money to the States and local governments to be used as reimbursement for the Township's COVID-19 related expenses;

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota received funding from the CARES Act and distributed \$48,975.00 to Solway Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota from the CARES Act money;

WHEREAS, the town board believes they will not spend the full amount allocated to the Township;

WHEREAS, the State and Federal CARES Act guidance allows the Township to transfer its CARES Act money to another local government;

WHEREAS, the Township may transfer to other units of government under MINN. Stat. 471.85;

WHEREAS, Proctor School District, St. Louis County, Minnesota has more COVID related expenses than CARES Act funding dedicate to them;

WHEREAS, the Township finds it in the public interest to transfer it's surplus of CARES Act funding to Proctor School District ISD 704.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Solway Township will transfer \$48,151.46 of it's CARES Act allocation to Proctor School District;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the town will transfer the money by check;

Passed this 13th day of October, 2020

By the Board.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adopt the Resolution To Transfer Excess CARES Act Funds To Another Government Entity after checking with the Proctor School District to verify that there is a deficit in funding.

NEW BUSINESS: a) Treasurer Moe advised the Board that the St. Louis County Association of Townships meeting will be held on October 28th via Zoom.
b)

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Date Approved

Town Board Chair

Town Clerk