

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Solway Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Scott Welsh, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Jeffrey Keppers and Ronald Gajewski, Clerk Tami McGregor, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and twenty-two concerned citizens.

II. CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS & CONTRACTOR REPORTS

- A. Aggregate Tax Audit – Status Update (“Old Business” Item)
- B. Tonja Spindler – Animal Nuisance Matter – Ms. Spindler works from home and raised concerns regarding excessive dog barking on the Lindrose Road. She has previously communicated with the animal owner without much success, and with the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, who recommended that she contact the town board regarding the possibility of an animal nuisance ordinance. The board explained to Ms. Spindler that ordinances must be enforced and that there is reluctance to implement an ordinance that would pose a financial burden on township taxpayers.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Keppers, and carried unanimously that should Ms. Spindler choose to provide the dog owner’s name and address to the clerk, the board will send a letter to the dog owner regarding the excessive barking. It was also noted that if an animal is a threat, the sheriff’s office should be contacted to intervene. If the matter continues to be an issue, this is also something that could be discussed at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

- C. Proposed Hermantown Data Center – The township has received a number of emails and phone calls expressing concerns regarding the proposed data center project in Hermantown bordering the township. A large number of residents and nonresidents attended the meeting expressing concerns regarding the lack of transparency and information from Hermantown. Concerns related to noise, air and light pollution, water output, and how this type of project may affect utility costs, area wells, the Rocky Run and Midway River water resources, wetlands and existing old forest within the project area and region. There were also concerns regarding the AUAR (Alternative Urban Areawide Review) that was completed, and a request that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be conducted.

John Mulder, City Administrator and Chad Ronchetti, Economic Development Director from Hermantown also attended the meeting, making themselves available to address concerns and answer questions. Mr. Mulder indicated that they have gone through the AUAR process, have looked at noise, wetlands, storm water and endangered species issues, and that they are following all legal requirements relating to the project. Mr. Mulder also indicated that the City of Hermantown’s website has information and Q & A relating to the project.

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Residents are seeking support from the town board to request a pause on the project until complete information can be obtained and made available to the public.

After lengthy public input and discussion, **MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Keppers, and carried unanimously that the board will send a letter to the Hermantown City Council voicing resident concerns and questions regarding the proposed data center.**

III. MINUTES – TOWN BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

MOTION by Keppers, seconded by Gajewski, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes from the town board meeting of September 9, 2025, as presented.

IV. TREASURER’S REPORT– SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Keppers, and carried unanimously to accept the monthly Treasurer’s Report dated September 30, 2025, as presented.

Checking: 20712 – 20750

Beginning Balance	\$79,319.78	
Receipts	26,910.25	
Disbursements	<u>-29,362.57</u>	
Ending Balance	\$76,867.46	\$76,867.46

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$16,874.53	
Interest/Deposits	0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$16,874.53	<u>16,874.53</u>

Total Accounts \$93,741.99

V. CORRESPONDENCE (Requiring Board Action/Discussion) Correspondence not requiring board action or discussion is available upon request.

VI. OUTSTANDING BILLS – Treasurer Moe reported that there were no additional bills this month.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh, and carried unanimously to pay all bills listed on the Outstanding Bills List presented by the town treasurer, for a total of \$24,576.49.

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VII. ROAD

- A. Roadside Mowing – Butch Lund reported that second round mowing has been completed. The mower has a broken spring that balances the cutter arm, and Mr. Lund is looking for parts to repair the arm.
- B. Hot Mix Blacktop Application Between Hall Front Stairway & Along Handicap Ramp – The hot mix project was completed on September 16, 2025.
- C. Aspenway Road – Andy Olson from St. Louis County Public Works conducted an inspection of the Aspenway Road on September 10, 2025, and suggested recommendations to bring the road into compliance with county road specifications. All recommended improvements were completed at the expense of the Aspenway Road residents on September 30, 2025.

An on-site inspection of Aspenway Road was conducted by the town board prior to tonight's meeting at 5:00 p.m. to confirm it is built to county road specifications. It was determined that no additional improvements are required.

A hearing open to the public was held prior to tonight's meeting at 6:00 p.m., and there were no objections to the township assuming responsibility for maintenance of the Aspenway Road. Resolution 2025-10 was unanimously adopted at the hearing to accept the Aspenway Road as a town road and to begin maintaining it as such.

- D. Brushing – Paul Dunaiski reported that road brushing he was made aware of following the September meeting has been completed so that road signs are visible.

Bob Rodda recently reported the need for some brushing on the south and north Hanson Roads, and Cedarway. Paul Dunaiski will complete the brushing.

- E. 2025 Local Road Improvement (LRIP) Funding Opportunity – Jeffrey Road – Supervisor Gajewski reported that he spoke to Michael Jost with LHB regarding submission of a 2025 LRIP application for the Jeffrey Road reconstruction and they are willing to submit the 2025 application at a proposed cost of \$3,000, excluding any additional uncovered costs. **MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski, and carried unanimously to approve LHB's proposal, in the amount of \$3,000, excluding any additional costs not covered, to submit a 2025 Local Road Improvement (LRIP) grant application for Jeffrey Road, between Hwy #2 and the Maple Grove Road.**
- F. Sandberg Road (North of Jerry Road) – Missing "Dead End" Road Sign - **MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Keppers, and carried unanimously to approve the purchase and installation of a "Dead End" road sign**

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from St. Louis County Public Works, for the Sandberg Road, north of the Jerry Road.

- G. Keith Anderson – 2025-26 Snowplowing/Snow Removal Rates – On September 21, 2025, Keith Anderson submitted his 2025-26 snowplowing/snow removal rates, with the only increase being \$15.00 per hour for Skid steer services. **MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Keppers, and carried unanimously to accept Keith Anderson’s 2025-26 snowplowing/snow removal rates.**
- H. Rock Projects – Jerry & Sandberg Roads - At the May meeting, \$3,000 was approved for rock removal as needed. Due to Bob Rodda’s recent concerns regarding damage to the teeth on his grader from embedded rocks on the middle Jerry Road and north Sandberg Road, Supervisor Gajewski will inform Mr. Rodda that he may remove rocks at his discretion, at a cost not to exceed the \$3,000 previously approved.

VIII. FIRE DEPARTMENT

- A. Department Report – Chief Brandon Porter was not present at the October meeting, and no report was provided. The department will be hosting their open house and hiring event on October 16, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- B. DNR Wildland Matching Grant – Final DNR paperwork has been submitted. The expected 2025 DNR Wildland matching grant amount to be received is \$5,000. There was no update at the October meeting.
- C. Fire Truck Titles (Unit #2) – Clerk McGregor reported that the title for Unit #2 (2011 International) was received on September 29, 2025, and we now have titles for all fire units.

IX. RECYCLING

- A. Recycling Center Floor Cracks – Butch Lund reported that the epoxy repair of the floor cracks in the Recycling Center has been completed.

X. HALL

- A. Videoconferencing System – User Manual – Supervisor Gajewski reported that Tim Aldrich has completed the majority of the AV user manual, but will set up an appointment with Clerk McGregor to run through everything on-site to confirm there are no procedural issues.
- B. Front Porch Fascia – The front porch fascia has been painted; however, Supervisor Keppers will continue to explore other weather resistant options for next spring.
- C. Downstairs Ladies’ Restroom Sink Drain – The downstairs ladies’ restroom sink has been intermittently leaking. Paul Dunaiski was instructed to pick up parts to replace the sink trap, drain tail piece and extension to keep on hand for replacement the next time the drain leaks.

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XI. PARK

- A. Safety Inspection Report – Supervisor Welsh’s October 14, 2025, Safety Inspection Report showed no issues. John McGregor will see that the leaves in the pavilion are blown out, and Paul Dunaiski will replace the broken fence post on the south side of the recreational courts.
- B. Field Maintenance Report – Topsoil has been added to the areas in front of the goal nets and will be seeded. Maintenance staff was reminded that the hydrants at the north soccer field need to be drained before the winter season. Pickleball nets will be left up on the recreational court until shortly before snowfall.
- C. Portable John – Removal of Seasonal Units – The seasonal unit at the north soccer field has been removed. Due to lack of space on the truck for both units, the second unit at the town hall will be removed in the near future.

XII. CEMETERY

- A. Maintenance – Township regulations require that all flowers and plants be removed from the cemetery by September 30th. After October 24th, all unclaimed items will be disposed of by township personnel. Maintenance staff was instructed that the American flag can be taken down for the season.

XIII. COMMITTEES

- A. Halloween Carnival & Special Events Committee Planning Meetings – The Halloween Carnival will be held on Friday, October 24, 2025, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The second Special Events Committee Halloween Carnival planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Posters have been distributed and donations are coming in.

XIV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Aggregate Tax Audits – Amanda Nelson is conducting aggregate tax audits and intends to complete 2019 and 2020 audits by the end of 2025. Ms. Nelson did not attend the October meeting and no updates were provided. The current status of audits is as follows:
 - Coons Aggregate – Due to an office fire, Coons will likely not be able to provide 2019 records; however, should be able to provide 2020 records.
 - Kivi, Mark – No connection has been made with Mr. Kivi to date. Reporting records from 2019 to the present were reviewed at the October meeting, and it was determined by the board that due to intermittent and minimal hauling, Clerk McGregor will notify Mr. Kivi that he will not be required to submit a quarterly report if there is

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nothing to report within a given quarter. If there is hauling, Mr. Kivi will be responsible to report and make payment at the close of that quarter.

- KTM Paving – The 2019 audit has been completed and \$1,058.45 is owed in delinquent tax. Ms. Nelson will communicate with KTM and request that payment be made by the end of the third quarter submission. Ms. Nelson is currently working on 2020 records.
 - Lindquist, James – Ms. Nelson reported at the September meeting that she has communicated with Mr. Lindquist and that a meeting will be scheduled soon.
 - Northland Constructors – Ms. Nelson reported at the September meeting that August and September 2019 records were missing from those submitted; however, they will be provided along with 2020 records.
 - One North – One North does not have 2019 and 2020 records which were prior to their ownership. Although the prior owner, Gobel Aggregate previously agreed to provide records, Ms. Nelson reported at the September meeting that they have since been unresponsive.
 - Pit 56 – 2019 records have been obtained, and Ms. Nelson will contact Pit 56 for 2020 records.
 - Sathers Construction & Excavating – At the September meeting, Ms. Nelson reported that she is missing 2019 records for the second quarter (April through July) and those will need to be obtained. The 2020 audit has been completed and it appears they are off by 13,586 tons, or approximately \$2,000.
 - Shelton Excavating – Ms. Nelson last reported that a meeting had been scheduled with Bill Shelton on September 18, 2025.
- B. Kubota Mower Maintenance – Butch Lund reported that maintenance staff will be able to take care of the oil change and filter replacement on the Kubota mower.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recognition Dinner – Following, discussion, **MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Keppers, and carried unanimously to select Sarah Mae’s Catering Menu B, along with two appetizers, and that Cindy Moe will pick up cupcakes for the Recognition Dinner on November 6, 2025.**
- B. Couri & Ruppe Township Legal Seminar – The Township Legal Seminar will be held on October 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All board members have been registered to attend.
- C. MN Association of Townships (MAT) Annual Conference – The MAT annual conference will be held December 11 through 13, 2025, in St. Cloud. Clerk McGregor will take care of registrations, and on-site hotel reservations have been made.

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- D. Willow River Boot Camp – Butch Lund reported that the Willow River Boot Camp will be assisting the township with projects on either October 20th or 21st. Tasks to be completed will be trimming and brushing around the hall cyclone fencing and other areas, where needed.

XVI. SIGN CHECKS/ADJOURNMENT – MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski, and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight’s meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.