

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 Gajewski and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of September 11, 2018 as presented.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to accept the monthly Treasurer's report dated September 30, 2018.

|                            |                     |                            |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Checking:1704-17139</b> |                     |                            |
| Beginning Balance          | \$273,657.09        |                            |
| Receipts                   | 22,158.78           |                            |
| Disbursements              | <u>\$-23,146.17</u> |                            |
| Ending Balance             | \$272,669.70        | <b>\$272,669.70</b>        |
| <br><b>Money Market</b>    |                     |                            |
| Beginning Balance          | \$ 109,018.79       |                            |
| Interest/Deposits          | \$18.22             |                            |
| Withdrawals                | <u>\$0.00</u>       |                            |
| Ending Balance             | \$109,037.01        | <b><u>\$109,037.01</u></b> |
| <br><b>Total Accounts</b>  |                     | <br><b>\$381,706.71</b>    |

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**10/11 Carlson Duluth** - Backflow preventer field test report for Town Hall and Fire hall. Both buildings passed the inspection. This yearly testing is a state mandate.

**10/9 Kivi Aggregate** - Agg Tax reporting form and payment.

**10/11 James Lindquist/Coon's Aggregate** - Agg Tax reporting form and payment.

**10/23 Gobel Aggregate / Northland Constructors** - Agg Tax reporting form and payment.

**10/22 Duluth News Tribune** - Affidavit of publication for testing of the voting machines before the General Election.

**10/22 University of Minnesota** - Application of wood ash to several properties near Solway Township.

**10/25 Proctor Journal** - Affidavit of Publication for testing of the voting machines before the General Election.

**10/25 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development** - KTM Paving conditional use decision for a permit for the expansion of the existing borrow pit to include the storage and recycling of asphalt and concrete with conditions that KTM obtain access approval from the local road authority, disturbed land within the 300-foot corridor of designated trout stream be restored and all county, state and federal regulations are complied with.

Other conditions are that all minimum extractive use standards shall be followed and the permit shall be brought back for review within one year from issuance of the conditional use permit to ensure that conditions are being followed.

Chairperson Gajewski reported that KTM has contacted him and asked for road access approval as their conditional use permit requires. The pit that KTM purchased had an existing

access by way of the Sandberg Road. They will have to follow yearly road restrictions. Chairperson Gajewski had an email sent to St. Louis Public that Solway Township approves KTM use of Sandberg Road in the proposed operation of their barrow pit they has access permission.

**10/25 St. Louis County Planning and Community Development** - Comprehensive land use plan update hearing continued to November 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM.

**11/1 St. Louis County Public Works** - Railroad crossing signs order for South Jeffrey Road between Hwy 2 and the railroad tracks. The signs needed are a "Hidden Crossing" and "Look for Trains". Also, a 15 MPH sign at the intersection should be removed. The cost of the signs including installation is \$625.00. The Board has previously approved the purchase of these signs.

**11/2 Arrowhead Regional Development Commission** - Township representative nomination for St. Louis County ARDC representative. No Board action.

**11/9 Proctor High School Chem Free Grad Party Committee** - Letter asking for a donation from the Township for the Chem Free Grad Party held at the Proctor High School. This will be an agenda item at the Annual Meeting in March.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** a) Treasurer Moe has several bills in addition to the Outstanding Bills List.

- \$276.47 to Maki & Overom for legal services.
- \$136 to Regena Merritt for mileage and reimbursement.
- \$1,373.01 to Como Oil and Propane for town hall heating fuel.
- \$225.00 to Ronald Gajewski, Amy Johnson, Kareen Nelson each for serving as election judges.
- \$228.75 to Bonnie Siiro for serving as an election judge.
- \$232.50 to Butch Lund for serving as an election judge.
- \$247.50 to Leon Forstrom for serving as an election judge.
- \$135.00 to Clare R. Stromlund for serving as an election judge.
- \$140.10 to Scott Welsh for serving as an election judge.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to pay all bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list presented by the Town Treasurer and the additional bills for a total amount of \$41,213.25.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) KTM needing approval statement to use Sandberg Road as access to his gravel pit addressed under Correspondence.

**ROAD:** a) Chairperson Gajewski reported that the maintenance garage has been cleaned. Garbage has been taken to landfill, the scrap metal was sold and the money went into the Township General Fund.

b) The railroad signs on the Jeffrey Road have been ordered, but are not installed yet.

c) Scott Welsh reported he received a call from Andrew Olson at St. Louis County Public Works Department with concerns on the condition of the South Bergquist Road. This road was paved by the previous owners. The pavement on the road now is in bad condition and coming apart. The County is concerned that when they plow they will scrape up the blacktop. Mr. Olson also told Supervisor Welsh that the County will need to get permission for a turnaround at the end of the road for winter snowplowing. Chairperson Gajewski reported that the Township has permission for a turnaround there that was obtained last year. The Board asked Supervisor Welsh to check with Mr. Olson to see if the County will still do plowing on the South Bergquist Road and let him know there is a permission agreement for a turnaround for winter

snowplowing. After discussing the blacktop on the road the Board would like to have the blacktop scraped up and return the road to a gravel road next summer.

**d)** Chairperson Gajewski reported that the trees along the right of way on the South Sandberg Road have been removed and ditching is complete.

**Fire:** Chief Nick Priolo reported a total of 110 calls year-to-date: 64 medical, 38 fires and 11 vehicle accidents.

**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 Department has also applied for a grant from Minnesota Department Public Safety for a gear washer extractor. The Department should hear in a few weeks if they are awarded this grant.

**d)** The date for the Recognition Dinner is November 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30PM for social hour; dinner at 6PM.

**e)** The rehab trailer graphics have been applied and the trailer is in the fire hall. Truck #7 will need a hitch and electrical hook ups to tow the trailer. The Department can get a tow package for the truck from Kolar for \$250.00 and approximately \$150.00 for the labor. MOTION By Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to allow \$330.00 for towing package and labor to make fire truck #7 suitable to tow the rehab trailer.

**f)** Firefighter Brandon Porter spoke about the hole in the tank on fire truck #3. This is an old tank that was fitted to a used 2004 chassis. The chassis is still in good condition. There is concern that there might be additional holes starting. The Department feels a smaller tank with a larger pump would be better as it would allow them to draft from dry hydrants. It would cost approximately \$140,000 to replace this truck. The chassis could be traded in to take about \$25,000 to \$35,000 off that price.

Another option is to rebuild the tank at approximately \$95,000. A future FEMA grant could be pursued to fix or replace this tanker also. The Board would like the Fire Department to have tanker #3 checked out to see how extensive the rust damage to the tank is and see about having the leak fixed. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to spend up to \$4,000 for the Fire Department to have the tank on truck #3 checked out to see how extensive the rust damage is, and have any holes fixed.

**g)** Firefighter Brandon Porter explained that several area departments have what is called a rapid response vehicle. This vehicle would be kept at the Chief or one of the Captain's homes so they could report to the fire as soon as possible to organize the scene without having to report to the fire hall first. The Department can purchase a vehicle through the state purchasing officer which is a better deal. Supervisor Welsh feels more important is to get the firefighter gear updated and the Board will know better financially after FEMA grants are awarded to the Fire Department. The Board advised Firefighter Brandon Porter to have a short presentation for the Annual Meeting in March as the electorate can raise the levy to cover the expense of an additional vehicle. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to table the discussion of purchasing a rapid response vehicle until the April Re-organizational meeting in March.

**h)** Firefighter Amber Porter reported that former firefighter Jeff Nelson started a Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department face book page while he was on the Department and has begun to again post on this page. The Department has started another official face book page that is different from the first one. Jeff Nelson did not turn over his passwords etc. and took the other administrators off the page so no one else can update it. Amber has text Jeff asking him to take down his page as he is no longer a Department member and should not be posting

as Solway Township Volunteer Department. She read his response where he stated she should take down the one the present department started. She again text him that she wishes they could work this out and he responded in a rude manner. The Department is asking the Board to intervene and write a letter to Mr. Nelson asking him to take down the old face book page he started. The Board discussed the matter and decided they would ask Township Attorney John Bray to handle the matter. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to have Township Attorney John Bray contact Mr. Nelson regarding his use of his face book page.

**RECYCLING:** a) Paul Dunaiski reported that all is going well at the Recycling Center.

**HALL:** a) Chairperson Gajewski mentioned that the front porch supports that were replaced this summer have been painted by Paul Dunaiski but they need to have the nail holes and dents filled. Paul will fill the holes and paint a second coat on the supports next spring. The hall cleaning with Maid of Honor is going well.

b) Painting the edge of the front steps with non-skid paint to provide depth perception has been completed by Paul Dunaiski.

c) Chairperson Gajewski mentioned that on Monday which was Veteran's he came to the hall and the front porch steps were not swept or shoveled and there was a morning exercise class using the hall. The office is closed on official holidays. Paul Dunaiski and Kerbie Merritt will work out a shoveling schedule. Chairperson Gajewski also mentioned that Karen Rouna that leads the class is having trouble with her entry key. The Clerk will check with her Wednesday morning to see if she needs a different key.

d) Chairperson Gajewski is wondering if it is time to paint the inside of the hall or maybe touch up in the stage area. The Clerk will check with Paul Dunaiski and Kerbie Merritt to see if they are available to do this.

**PARK:** a) The warming house has been torn down and the new slab for the warming house has been poured. The first plan was to get rid of the existing slab, but it was decided to pour over the existing slab raising the floor so water will not seep in.

b) Chairperson Gajewski that in lieu of Scott Nylund purchasing the old warming shed for \$1000 that some of the dollar amount will be put toward sidewalk slabs in front of the new warming shed doors.

c) The Board needs to consider what type of floor, walls, and ceiling covering materials they want for the warming shed. Scott Nylund has a few the Board can choose from and will hopefully have those for the next Town Meeting.

d) The foundations for the new light poles are in. In the process apparently one of the new park bench seats has been nicked. The Clerk will look into replacing the seat if it is possible.

e) Chairperson Gajewski reported that the ADA park equipment has been installed and there is some money left on the grant so four more pieces have been ordered. The cost of the additional items will be over the grant amount by \$265 which will come out of the Park Fund.

g) 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) There have been complaints that the solar lights were taken out of the cemetery along with the other decorations that are taken off each year. The Board would like to add this as an item to the Annual Meeting agenda.

**COMMITTEES:** a) Chris Ellian reported that he has been in contact with someone at Century Link and hopefully he can give us an update on which roads will be connected in what order. He let them know that there are some Township Roads where the residents would like fiber installed.

b) The Halloween Carnival was very busy and again a great success. There is a lot of candy left that can be used at the Winter Fun Day.

**OLD BUSINESS:** a) Gobel Aggregate has paid their Aggregate tax due and is now up to date with reporting and paying.

**NEW BUSINESS:** a) The Clerk reported that everything went well at the General Election.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.