

Solway Town Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2011

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

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to approve the minutes as written from the October 11, 2011 Town Board Meeting.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to accept the following Treasurer's report dated October 31, 2011.

Checking 13224-13264

Beginning Balance	\$180,985.62	
Receipts	\$40,292.57	
Transfers	0.00	
Disbursements	\$-15,464.05	
Ending Balance	\$205,814.14	\$205,814.14

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 108,227.81	
Interest/Deposits	\$17.79	
Withdrawals	\$00	
Ending Balance	\$108,245.60	\$108,245.60

Total Accounts \$314,059.74

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

10/17 LTAP - Local Technical Assistance Program - Road maintenance workshop. No board action.

10/17 Anna Mae Skibinski – employment inquiry. The Township has no openings at present. The Clerk will notify Ms. Skibinski by mail.

10/18 WLSSD – Notice of 2012 allocation fee for Solway Township in the amount of \$1,389. This amount is included in the 2012 Township budget.

10/19 US Dept of Commerce - Census survey. The Clerk will complete and return.

10/27 Wells Fargo – Information regarding Township credit cards. No board action.

11/3 St. Louis County Board of Commissioners - Notice of state property tax law change regarding the Homestead Market Value Exclusion. No board action, informational letter.

OUTSTANDING BILLS:

Treasurer Moe has additional bills as follows:

- Ron Gajewski in the amount of \$292.20 as reimbursement.
- Scott Welsh in the amount of \$48.00 as reimbursement.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh, and carried to pay all outstanding bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list and also the additional bills presented by the Town Treasurer.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: None

ROAD: a) Jim Lindquist reported there are tires in the ditch on the Bergquist Road. Leon Forstrom will pick up the tires and dispose of them properly.

b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he was notified by St. Louis County Public Works that a letter from the Township asking the county to perform winter road services is needed on file at the county office. A letter was sent to Pat McCarthy at St. Louis Public Works requesting sanding, steaming culverts, sanding town parking lots and specialty snow removal.

c) Supervisor Gajewski and Clerk Merritt will work on the road sign survey that is required to be completed by January 2012.

FIRE: a) Jeff Nelson reported the Fire Department had 67 calls year-to-date. A donated pick-up truck from Enbridge will be coming, but the department is not sure when. Jeff Nelson completed updating the Fire Department plaques in the town hall with the names of retired and present members. The department has hired another member. The Fire Department trucks have been winterized. The Bingo is set for November 19th.

b) No word from FEMA grant until early 2012.

c) The Department felt the recognition dinner held on Oct 13th went very well and the department would like the same type of event next year, maybe in conjunction with a Fire Hall open house for the retired members.

RECYCLING: a) Nothing to report.

b) The Board needs to accept the Operations Grant for 2011 from WLSSD by resolution. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh to adopt Resolution #77 accepting a grant from WLSSD as follows:

**SOLWAY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #77
Accepting a Grant from Western Lake Superior Sanitary District**

WHEREAS, Solway Township, St. Louis County, operates a recycling program in agreement with WLSSD; and

WHEREAS, WLSSD may have funds available for communities for expenses incurred by local communities for operating recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, Solway Township submitted a grant application in the amount of \$6,515.52 on April 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, WLSSD approved the grant request and awarded \$6,515.52 in funding on October 3, 2011;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Solway Town Board accepts the WLSSD grant of \$6,515.52 on November 9, 2011.

Supervisor Gajewski moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and it was declared adopted on the 9th day of November 2011 upon the following votes:

Yeas – Clare R. Stromlund, Ronald Gajewski and Scott Welsh.

Nays – none.

HALL: a) Rick Flesvig has fixed the town hall outside lights.

b) MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to thank Ken and Margaret Johnson for their volunteer work at the monthly country music show by allowing them a one time use of the town hall.

c) Veronica Childers informed the town board that because of her work schedule she is not able to do the hall cleaning on Sunday mornings. The Board asked if she could do the hall cleaning on Sunday afternoons, or on Mondays. She said she should be able to work something out. Veronica will keep in contact with the Town Clerk to work out the cleaning schedule.

d) A complaint was made to the board regarding the door closure on the downstairs ladies bathroom. They mentioned that is very hard to try to open the door from the inside while in a wheelchair. Motion by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to remove the door closures from the downstairs bathrooms at the town hall.

PARK: a) Fertilizing of the soccer fields has been completed. Thanks to Rick Flesvig for use of the fertilizer spreader.

b) The Board is working on a new sign for the pavilion.

c) Painting of the park areas/buildings is completed for this year.

d) The biffie at the Munger School Site was removed October 24th.

e) The monthly playground inspection shows no hazards and that the parks are in good shape.

CEMETERY: a) Supervisor Gajewski completed a cemetery inspection along with the monthly playground inspection. No safety hazards were found. There is one grave sinking that the Clerk will check.

b) The Board discussed improvements to the cemetery. They would like an estimate from Jim Lindquist as to how much fill will be needed to raise the low areas. Mr. Lindquist suggested that when he is ditching next summer he can haul the material taken from the ditches to the cemetery. Improvements to the cemetery will be an agenda item at the Annual Meeting in March.

COMMITTEES: a) Supervisor Gajewski reported that the Halloween Carnival was a great success. Thanks to all the volunteers that made it happen.

OLD BUSINESS: a) The Public Hearing for the Welsh Cartway was re-convened before tonight's town board meeting. An agreement has been reached with all parties concerned and the Cartway has been established effective payment of damages and costs the Town Board incurred.

NEW BUSINESS: a) A Resolution to bill railroad clean up costs in case of an accident was discussed and tabled to the next Town Board Meeting.

b) The Town Board needs to set an annual expiration date for requests of notice of special meetings by resolution. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to adopt Resolution #76 as follows:

RESOLUTION #76

Establishing an annual expiration date for requests of notice of special meetings

WHEREAS, the Open Meeting Law provides an opportunity for a person to file a request for notice of special meetings (Minn. Stat.13D.04, subd. 2); and

WHEREAS, public bodies are authorized to establish an expiration date for requests for notice of special meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the town board to promote uniformity and reduce the administrative burdens of handling and responding to requests for notice; and
WHEREAS, once an annual expiration date is established persons having filed a request for notice are given notice of an impending expiration and have the opportunity to renew their request;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that written requests for notice of special meetings made pursuant to the Open Meeting Law will expire on December 31st each year.

Supervisor Gajewski moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Welsh and it was declared adopted on the 11th day of November, 2011 upon the following votes:

Yeas - Ronald Gajewski - Clare R. Stromlund – Scott Welsh.

Nays - none

Absent - none

c) Supervisor Gajewski reported that there are new transmission towers in the Township. These are needed for use by the Federal Airport Authority.

d) Supervisor Gajewski suggested re-brushing the property lines. Leon Forstrom and Supervisor Gajewski will schedule a time to complete this.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting after the Board completes signing checks. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.