

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, Clerk Autumn Marquardt, Deputy Clerk Amy Johnson, Treasurer Cindy Moe and 4 concerned citizens. Supervisor Clare Stromlund was not present.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of November 9, 2021 as presented.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report dated November 30, 2021. Chairperson Gajewski advised that the blacktopping, seal coating and striping that was done in the parking lot and basketball court is under the fund for the hall but should be under the road fund. Treasurer Moe will move the claim to the correct fund.

Checking:18613-18650

Beginning Balance	\$392,228.03	
Receipts	\$301.29	
Disbursements	\$-16,666.79	
Ending Balance	<u>\$375,862.53</u>	\$375,862.53

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,320.71	
Interest/Deposits	\$9.13	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$109,329.84</u>	<u>\$109,329.84</u>

Total Accounts **\$485,192.37**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

11/15 DeCaigny Excavating, Inc. – 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

11/15 Land Stewardship Project – Information regarding the Land Stewardship Projects concerns and issues with drought and climate changes. This is informational for the Board as the Land Stewardship Project is requesting membership.

11/18 Pit 56, Inc. – 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting form and payment.

12/01 St. Louis County – Annual Township reporting form for Noxious Weed control in Solway Township and the Annual County Report. Butch Lund is the Noxious Weed Inspector for the township and will complete the form. Chairperson Gajewski noted that the County reported a \$495,894 cost for townships weed inspections and \$356,901 for cities.

12/01 Carlson Concrete/Red Rock Precast – Letters from both Carlson Concrete and Red Rock Precast advising that Red Rock Precast has taken over ownership of Carlson Concrete. The township has not used Carlson Concrete, so this is informational.

12/13 Northland Lawn, Sport and Equipment – Information regarding Northland Lawn, Sport and Equipment’s business and the equipment that they have available for rental.

OUTGOING COORESPONDENCE

11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8 WLSSD – Recycling tracking forms.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: a) Treasurer Moe has six additional bills not listed on the outstanding bills list:

- Shayna Sheehan for \$25.00 for town hall rental refund.
- Tiffany Kutcher for \$25.00 for town hall rental refund.
- Quill for \$150.99 for cleaning and hall supplies.
- Proctor Journal for \$154.80 for notice of Candidate Filing Period for the March Township Election.
- Forum Communication for \$97.86 for notice of Candidate Filing Period for the March Township Election.
- Portable John for \$137.00 for the final billing for the year for the biffie service.

The invoice for Rodda Grading and Excavating is for grading on October 21,22,24 and 25th on the following roads: Peterson, Gaus, Van Gassler, Sandberg, Wargin, Cedarway, Birchway, Woodgate, Heine and Berquist. This should be the final billing of the season.

Kim Kuehl has left a note on her invoice stating that her rates will be increasing \$5.00 an hour due to inflation beginning in January 2022. The Board is very happy with the work that Ms. Kuehl does cleaning and sanitizing the hall.

The trailer that was purchased from Widdes Trailer Sales was \$100 more than what was thought as a 5% increase in prices began on November 1st. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the charge of the 5% increase on the invoice for the aluminum trailer that was purchased. The Board approved \$4,895 in November. The trailer should be available for pick up in February.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski 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 \$17,297.82

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Nothing to report.

ROAD: a) MNDOT repaired a hole on the S. Hanson bituminous apron off Hwy #194. The maps that they have contradict each other on if there is a culvert in this area or not. MNDOT has filled the hole with bituminous, this may need to be looked at in the spring.

b) A rock pile that was left on the Jerry Rd. turn around by a contractor employed by Lake County Power has been spread and leveled out so that it will not become a problem for the snowplows.

c) Bob Rodda has taken care of the boulders that were on Jerry Rd.

d) Mr. Rodda has widened the opening in the beaver dam that was on the White Pine Tributary on the Van Gassler Rd. The width of the stream is back to normal. There is no further sign of any beaver activity.

d) Mr. Rodda caught some of his blades in the matting on Jerry Rd. between Munger Shaw and the railroad tracks. This has been cleaned up.

e) Mr. Rodda has completed a list of work that he would like to perform on the roads next year. The Board will keep this list on file for the road inspection next April.

- FIRE:**
- a) Brandon Porter provided a Department report stating there has been a total of 144 calls YTD: 36 Fire, 100 Medical and 8 Vehicle Accidents. All calls were mutual aid.
 - b) Caldwell Heating and Cooling has not been in contact with the Department regarding replacing the piping for the compressed air system. Mr. Porter advised that they may need to look for someone else to complete this project.
 - c) The Fire Department currently has 15 members. The five newest members should be fully certified in February.
 - d) Como Oil and Propane could not do a check on the boiler in the Fire Hall as they do not service for that type of boiler. Supervisor Welsh suggested that A.G. O'Brien Plumbing and Heating could look into this for the Department.
 - e) Mr. Porter advised that the Fire Hall had poor water pressure. Mr. Porter shut off the water and changed the filters in the lines and the water pressure is back to normal.
 - f) The Department has applied for four grants for funding. The grants were affiliated with Essentia, Adli, Blanden and St. Lukes. The Department is interested in obtaining a Lucas Device that can mechanically do CPR. The grants may be able to help with the purchase of this device.
 - g) Mr. Porter has placed the flooding of the skating rink on the training list for the Fire Department Members.
 - h) The Department is requesting that the Board ask Keith Anderson to back drag the snow in front of the Fire Hall doors so that they do not need to remove it themselves. The Board will speak to Keith Anderson and Leon Forstrom will keep an eye on this as well.

- RECYCLING:**
- a) Horst Blumerich advised that Christmas Day and New Years Day fall on Saturdays this year. The Recycling shed will not be open on these days. Clerk Marquardt will make up some signs for Mr. Blumerich to hang at the Recycling shed.
 - b) Western Lake Superior Sanitary District will be holding a meeting on Thursday December 16th for townships. Clerk Marquardt and Horst Blumerich will attend this meeting at the hall as the meeting is virtual.
 - c) A piece of the fascia on the recycling building has fallen off and is believed to be lost in the snow. This will be looked at in the spring when the snow melts to see if the missing piece can be found. Leon Forstrom will secure any other pieces that may be loose in the meantime.

- HALL:**
- a) Minnesota Power will be meeting with Chairperson Gajewski at the Town Hall on Wednesday December 15th at 10:30 to perform an energy audit.
 - b) Como has performed the bi-yearly maintenance and check on the Town Hall boiler and Water Heater. There were no issues reported.
 - c) Butch Lund reconnected the phone line in the kitchen downstairs at the hall. Mr. Lund is going to connect a toll restrictor to both kitchen lines to prevent any long-distance calls from going out. The office has a new phone and does not have any issues any longer.
 - d) The door stop in the upstairs bathroom needs to be replaced.
 - e) The plaque for the Citizen of the Year is full. Clerk Marquardt will check with Advantage Emblem for getting a bigger plaque to place on the wall. Prices and options for a new plaque will be brought to the next meeting.

- PARK**
- a) Chairperson Gajewski completed the monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report and stated that there are no safety issues with the park and properties.
 - b) The new aluminum trailer was discussed under outstanding bills.
 - c) The ice rink was covered under the Fire Department.
 - d) The warming shed will be open this year when the ice rink is flooded as weather permits. Veronica Priolo will attend at the shed as she has in the past.

CEMETERY: a) Nothing to report.

COMMITTEES: a) There will be a Special Events meeting for the Winter Fun Day held on January 3rd at 6:30PM to discuss planning the event if it can take place.

OLD BUSINESS: a) There is no new information on Steve Lacari performing an aggregate audit for the township, Treasurer Moe will speak to him and his son one more time.

b) All of the aggregate reports for the 3rd quarter have been received. The revenue being received has dropped down significantly from past years. The Board feels that there is an urgency to have an audit performed. The Board will reach out to John Bray to see if he has any other suggestions for who could perform an aggregate audit for the township.

c) The Courri and Ruppe Legal Seminar supplied information regarding revenue loss and how to use the ARPA funds for this. The information states that ARPA funds may be able to be moved to the general fund based on revenue loss. Treasurer Moe understands using these funds in this manner.

NEW BUSINESS: a) There will be a budget meeting held in February 2022 to prepare a proposed levy for the Annual Meeting. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to hold the budget meeting on February 28, 2022 at 5:00PM.

b) Chairperson Gajewski and Clerk Marquardt have completed the newsletter aside from the Winter Fun Day and Skating Fun articles. There is nothing new that the Board feels should be added to the newsletter. Chairperson Gajewski and Clerk Marquardt will finish the newsletter after the meeting so that it can be turned in to the Proctor Journal on Wednesday the 15th.

c) Lori Johnson from the Proctor School has requested to have the Superintendent Search Surveys put onto the township website. These surveys are to help the school district receive feedback from the community on what they are looking for in a Superintendent. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously for the Superintendent Search Surveys to be placed on the township website.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.