

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 6 concerned citizens.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of November 10, 2020 as presented.

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

Checking:18162-18209

Beginning Balance	\$257,215.26	
Receipts	\$273.00	
Disbursements	<u>\$-35,614.06</u>	
Ending Balance	\$221,874.20	\$221,874.20

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,246.10	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,246.10	<u>\$109,246.10</u>

Total Accounts **\$331,120.30**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

11/30 DeCaigny Excavating, Inc. – 3rd quarter aggregate tax reporting form and payment.

12/02 Duluth News Tribune – Affidavit of Publication for filing period for the March Township Election.

12/03 St. Louis County Public Health – Covid-19 information and resources.

12/06 Tonya Kolenda – Thank you email to the Township for sharing excess CARES funds to the Proctor School District.

Dumping on the Jerry Rd.

Supervisor Welsh advised that he spoke with Chuck Hartley about dumping animals on the Jerry Rd. Mr. Hartley was wondering what options were out there. Supervisor Welsh explained that the Board does not feel that putting a sign up will change anything and if a sign was put up on the Jerry Rd. that they would need to put a sign on every road. Supervisor Welsh looked up the St. Louis County Ordinances for information but was unable to find anything about dumping on private property. Mr. Hartley and Supervisor Welsh discussed putting an article in the Newsletter regarding this. Supervisor Gajewski questioned if the other Board members were okay with putting the information in the newsletter. Supervisor Welsh and Chairperson Stromlund agree.

Plowing at the Gaus Rd. turnaround

Clerk Marquardt received an email from Brian Gaus regarding the plowing that was done to the turnaround at the end of the Gaus Rd. Clerk Marquardt contacted St. Louis County Public Works and received contact information for Mr. Gaus to contact the Public Works Supervisor

personally. Mr. Gaus advised Clerk Marquardt that he had been in touch with the Public Works Supervisor and that the issue is being resolved.

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

- Stainless & Repair for the amount of \$2,982.39 for repairs to the heat pans on engine #6. The township will pay this claim and the insurance company will reimburse minus deductible.
- Municipal Emergency for the amount of \$2,280.00 for the Fire Fighter turnout gear that was destroyed in the propane burn. The township will pay this claim and the insurance company will reimburse minus deductible.

MOTION by Stromlund, 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 \$16,091.49

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Nothing to Report.

ROAD: a) Supervisor Gajewski spoke with Commissioner Keith Musolf on December 3rd for an update regarding Tonic Salvage and the Vintage Hideaway Marketplace on the W. Arrowhead Rd. Commissioner Musolf advised that he has been in contact with Steve Skalisky and the Planning and Zoning Department at St. Louis County. Supervisor Gajewski noted that the County is looking into the permitting requirements. Commissioner Musolf stated that they are walking through it right now.

b) A road crew for St. Louis County has placed 30MPH signs along the Jeffrey Rd. between Maple Grove and Hwy #2. The Board approved up to \$600 at the November meeting to put the signs up. Supervisor Welsh noted that St. Louis county has filled some potholes on the Jeffery Rd. between Maple Grove and Hwy #2. Supervisor Gajewski had mentioned to Vic Lund when he was asking about the speed limit signs that the Board was requesting the signs be placed due to the condition of the road.

c) The Local Road Improvement Program is accepting applications for road projects through March 3rd 2021. Supervisor Welsh stated that the Board has been discussing what to do about the Jeffrey Rd. from Maple Grove Rd. to Hwy #2 and that this program looks like it could be what they were looking for. Supervisor Welsh also noted that grants can be time consuming even though the application does not look difficult so it would take a lot of hours to complete the application and grant process. The County will have to be involved in the grant process. Supervisor Welsh noted that two requirements of the grant where the Jeffrey Rd. may qualify would be to address the transportation deficiency and that it connects to a highway and a County Rd. The Jeffrey Rd. looks like it would qualify. Supervisor Gajewski stated that he could get in contact with Gordy Halvorson who is the St. Louis County Highway Superintendent to see if he would act on the Townships behalf. The Township has worked with Mr. Halvorson before with turnarounds. Supervisor Gajewski stated that the Board has been nursing the Jeffrey Rd. along for a long time and believes that the road would qualify as well. It was also noted that the Jeffrey Rd. is used by more than just local traffic as well. Supervisor Gajewski stated that they could ask to go all the way through to the Sathers Pit as well because of the high volume of gravel trucks. Chairperson Stromlund stated that he is unsure of the cost of filling the potholes on that road but that there has always been a contention that something would need to be done to fix the road. Supervisor Welsh stated that the Township has put money into the north end of the road and that it is in good shape. Supervisor Gajewski

stated that if they are going to attempt to receive the grant, that they should ask for the entirety of the Jeffrey Rd. to be replaced. The road would not be reconstructed, it would just be resurfaced. Chairperson Stromlund suggested that they could remove the blacktop and replace it with gravel like they did on the old Hwy #2. Jim Lindquist advised that when Midway Township resurfaced one of their roads, they repurposed the blacktop that was torn up by mixing it up and re-laying it and then covering it with another layer. It was noted that the program is a state aid program and that there are no matching requirements. Supervisor Gajewski noted with the complaints that come in on the road and that a substantial amount of money will be needed to be put in to redo the road it would be worthwhile to pursue the grant. The Board agrees to pursue the grant application with Supervisor Gajewski and Clerk Marquardt working on the application and they will bring back information to the January meeting.

d) Supervisor Gajewski noted that some of the township roads still have quite a bit of ice on them. St. Louis County is in the process of taking care of the issue using graders to scrape off the ice.

FIRE: a) Chief Nick Priolo provided a report via telephone that stated there have been 125 calls to date. 89 Medicals, 29 Fires and 7 vehicle accidents. All calls were mutual aid.

b) The Department has one person looking into joining the Fire Department. They are still working on recruitment.

c) The Fire Department will flood the basketball court once the weather is consistently below freezing temperatures. The Warming Shed will not be open as social distancing would not be possible in the enclosure.

d) The Fire Department plaques at the Town Hall are not up to date. Clerk Marquardt will work with Chief Priolo to get the plaques up to date.

e) All of the Fire Trucks are working well.

RECYCLING: a) The old signs have been re-installed on the recycling building, Horst Blumerich and Leon Forstrom put them up.

b) Mr. Blumerich questioned if getting a bigger cardboard dumpster would be possible instead if requesting additional pickups as the increase in online shopping has increased the amount of cardboard coming in. Clerk Marquardt will check with LoriLee Blais at WLSSD to see if this is possible.

c) Mr. Blumerich and Clerk Marquardt will virtually attend the WLSSD meeting on Thursday December 4th from 3:00-4:30PM.

HALL: a) Supervisor Gajewski stated that he advised Sherman Carlson from the R.E.A3D program that they can use the hall for their tutoring program once the Covid restrictions allow.

b) Clerk Marquardt advised the Board that her in office hours will decrease again due to childcare issues. The Board does not have any issues with this change. Clerk Marquardt can work from home.

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 the park area in good condition.

b) The Pavilion does not have any power running to it. Leon Forstrom and Butch Lund will look at this issue to see if they can fix it. If the issue cannot be fixed in house, Supervisor Gajewski noted that they can contact Rick Flesvig.

c) The John Deere tractor lawn deck discharge area needs to be fixed to have it ready for the Spring.

d) Supervisor Gajewski noted that the basketball hoop poles need to be painted and suggested that the same color as the bolsters at the fire hall can be used. Supervisor Gajewski suggested looking for someone else to complete this project and questioned if Pete Hildre may be able to do it. The Board agreed to Supervisor Gajewski contacting Mr. Hildre to see if he is willing to do that kind of work in the spring.

CEMETERY: a) Supervisor Gajewski reported that he spoke with Duluth Monument who gave a good quote for marking any graves that don't have a stone. Supervisor Gajewski had received the call a couple weeks ago. These graves would need to be from 2000 or before. The offer is for Resident who may want to upgrade their stone as well. The cost would be \$170 a piece for a marker 10x20x3 inches. The offer is good until Feb. 1st of 2021. The Board believes that they are all caught up with marking the unmarked graves. Supervisor Gajewski will call them back to advise them there is not a need from the township but if any residents inquire, Clerk Marquardt can give them the information.

b) Leon Forstrom advised Supervisor Gajewski that the bark on one of the trees at the Cemetery has been rubbed off. It is believed that a deer has been rubbing its antlers on it. This is just informational as the damage may require another tree to be purchased for the cemetery.

COMMITTEES: a) Winter fun Day is Cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

b)

OLD BUSINESS: a) Proctor School has sent a CARES expense report that will be used for the Townships accounting records indicating the use of the monies donated by the Township.

b) The Board attended the Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Meeting on November 21 via teleconference. All proposed resolutions passed at this meeting. Supervisor Gajewski noted that he thought it went as well as it could have. A lot of people attended the meeting this year. Next year, the MAT Annual Meeting will take place in September.

c) Treasurer Moe reported that everything is put on hold for the St. Louis County Association of Townships until the next meeting. No resolutions were presented at the Annual meeting and all of the officers will remain the same until the next meeting in May.

d)

NEW BUSINESS: a) MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adopt resolution #2020-8 Resolution designating annual polling place.

Resolution #2020-8

Solway Township

of St. Louis County, Minnesota

Resolution Designating Annual Polling Place

WHEREAS, it is important that citizens exercise their right to vote at their local polling place;

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 204B.16 requires the town board to designate its local polling place for elections annually;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of Solway Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota does hereby designate Solway Town Hall at 4029 Munger Shaw Road, Cloquet, Minnesota in St. Louis County as its polling place in 2021.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the township notify residents of this designation by following the requirements of Minn. Stat. 205.16.

Adopted this 8th, day of December, 2020.

By the Solway Town Board

b) Supervisor Gajewski questioned if the Board had any suggestions for newsletter items as the newsletter is due on the 1st. There is not too much to add to the newsletter as nothing can be planned at this time. It was discussed under correspondence to place an article about dumping on townships roads. Fire department recruitment and adding that clam shell plastic is not recyclable are two items that will be added.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Date Approved

Town Board Chair

Town Clerk