

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, Clare Stromlund, Clerk Amy Johnson, Treasurer Cindy Moe and 7 concerned citizens.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the rotation of Supervisor Welsh to the position of Chairperson and Supervisor Stromlund as Vice-Chair for the coming year.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of February 8, 2022 as presented.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report dated February 28, 2022.

**Checking:18693-18730**

Beginning Balance	\$488,305.63	
Receipts	\$8,253.21	
Disbursements	<u>\$-71,205.14</u>	
Ending Balance	\$425,353.70	<b>\$425,353.70</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,334.48	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,334.48	<b><u>\$109,334.48</u></b>

**Total Accounts** **\$534,688.18**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Phone Call-** Received by Clerk Johnson and referred to Welsh. Dave Nordeck called and asked how to get approved to start a gravel pit? Nordeck had talked to the County, and they told him he should get a letter of recommendation from the Town Board, Welsh stated that the board does not give letters of recommendation. That he would first have to fill out an application with the County and then the County notifies the Township. The area that Nordeck wants to start a gravel pit is on the Sandberg Road pass Rogalla's pit. Welsh referred him back to the County for any further questions.

**1/28 CTC** –High speed internet company looking to receive grant money. They are asking for letters of support from residence. If they are chosen, they would pay the matching funds to get high speed internet in the area outlined on the map. Looking at the map it looks like it is in the southern part of our township. {South of Hwy 2}

**2/1 U.S. Officer List 2022-2023** – Update our list with the Minnesota Association of Townships. Autumn Marquardt will be taken off and Amy Johnson will replace her.

**2/10 LBAE** - Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting to be held on April 28, 2022. This meeting will be held at the Solway Town Hall at 4:00 PM.

**2/14 MN Department of Transportation** – The Minnesota Department of Transportation had inquired if the Solway Township would be interested in paying for and maintaining the roundabout landscaping on Hwy 2/194. Motion by Gajewski and second by Stromlund and carried unanimously that the Solway Township is not interested in the maintenance of the new roundabout.

**2/18 Township Lobby Days** – Thursday March 24, 2022, this will be held virtual.

**2/22 Pit 56** – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter aggregate tax reporting form and payment received.

**2/22 Planning & Community Development** – Packet of information on CDBG and ESG Covid-19 funds that are available.

**2/24 Lorilee Blais WLSSD** – Lorilee from WLSSD stated in an email that we can purchase larger bags for our carts and under the grants “supplies stipend” this would be covered. Motion by Gajewski and seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to purchase from ULINE clear 96-gallon bags for the recycle carts.

**3/01 MN Department of Revenue** – Petroleum Tax License Renewals due. Solway Township does not have this tax.

**3/01 Virginia Cooper** – Virginia Cooper emailed asking about posting an article on our website. The board decided that they would like to see the article before any decision is made.

**3/04 St. Louis County** – The St. Louis County Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on Thursday April 14, 2022, at 9:00 AM, at the Government Services Center in Virginia, MN.

**3/08 Norton** – Norton Security Subscription was paid.

## **OUTGOING CORESPONDENCE**

**WLSSD** – Recycling tracking forms.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** a) Treasurer Moe has 7 additional bills not listed on the outstanding bills list

- Quill in the amount of \$68.71 for paper.
- Como Oil in the amount of \$1,005.19 for the town hall.
- Great Plains Fire in the amount of \$4,557.26 for truck maintenance.
- Adam Ross for \$55.00 for skating rink flooding
- Kim Mullen for \$44.00 for skating rink flooding.
- Kyle Mullen for \$11.00 for skating rink flooding.
- Curtis Myers for \$11.00 for skating rink flooding.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh 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 \$21,124.34

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) Nothing to report.

**ROAD:** a) St. Louis County Sheriff has had some success with the dumping on Sandberg Road.

**b)** The board needs to set a date for the road inspection. Chairperson Gajewski noted that traditionally the inspection is done on the last Friday of April. The board agreed to have the inspection on Friday April 29, 2022 from 8:00 to 12:00 PM.

**c)** Roadside mower breaks still need to be fixed. Chairperson Welsh suggest we touch base with GB Repair and see what the time line is to getting it fixed.

**FIRE: a)** Chief Priolo provided a Department report stating there has been a total of 33 calls YTD. 7 Fire, 25 Medical and 1 Vehicle Accidents. 1 Fire was in Solway Township.

**b)** The air pressure system is all finished and paid in the amount of \$7,300.00.

**c)** Skating rink is no longer being flooded due to weather.

**d)** Department membership is at 13 volunteers.

**e)** Outside lights have not been replaced. Chairperson Gajewski will contact Rick Flesvig.

**f)** Coon's Pit was not open or plowed when they had a structure fire on March 13,2022. Solway and Grand Lake have an agreement with Coon's, to us the hydrant at the pit, for a water source. Chief Priolo stated that the Fire Department has a key for the lock on the gate and there have never been any issues gaining access to the water hydrant in the past.

**g)** Clutch on Engine #4 has no gears. The grass truck has a manual clutch that would cost \$1,300.00 to fix. Motion made by Gejewski and seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to agree to fix engine #4.

**h)** Pancake fundraiser May 1, 2022 at the Solway Town Hall from 8:00 to 12:00

**RECYCLING: a)** Horst Blumerich will be in Germany April 13 to May 11. Loni Blumerich will be running the recycling in his absence.

**b)** The bags that were dropped off at the recycling shed for the plastic film carts are too small. A 96 gallon container bags can be purchased through Uline. The cost of the container bags can be billed to WLSSD. Motion was made to purchase the bags.

**HALL: a)** The floors in the town hall need to be refinished. The previous refinishing was done by Dunbars. Deputy/Clerk Johnson has reached out to Scott Dunbar but has not talked with him yet.

**b)** Kim Kuehl reported that the hall was not left properly. The kitchen floor was extremely dirty, and it didn't look like there was any floors cleaned. The question was brought up on should the person that rents get their money back or should the Township keep it? The group that rented the town hall was the Proctor Softball. They are considered a community rental so they don't put down any damage deposit. The board discussed the issues and came up with talking to the P.O.C. on the matter and let them know things have to be taken care of better. Leon Forstrom stated that it was the same weekend Kim had called him and said the lights were left on and the door was open. She was thinking something happened to him and things were left open.

**c)** Air Exchange/Air Conditioning; Chairperson Gajewski has and appointment with Coldwell and Randell Brothers to come and look at the Town Hall and see what we would need and what it would entail. Deputy/Clerk Johnson will check with the Mn Association of Townships to see what the amount is to require sealed bids. Treasure Moe looked on the website and it stated up to \$175,000.00 before the Township is required to have sealed bids.

**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)**

**CEMETERY: a)** Butch Lund is willing to mark spots for winter burials if needed.

**COMMITTEES:** a) The Special events committee will meet on February 15<sup>th</sup> to make a decision regarding moving forward with the Winter Fun Day.

**OLD BUSINESS:** a) The budget meeting is on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

b) ARPA funds will be available for broader use after April 1<sup>st</sup>. The second half of the funds will be coming in this year.

c) There has been no further information regarding Steve Lacari performing an aggregate audit.

d) The new utility trailer is on its way. The cost of the trailer \$4,375.00 was approved at a previous meeting. An invoice will be needed for the township to pay the bill. Deputy/Clerk Johnson will get an invoice.

e) The township is continuing to make a decision on the Clerk position. The option of the Deputy becoming the Clerk and hiring an office assistant is being discussed.

f) Chairperson Gajewski updated the Board regarding the DAT and CAT meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS:** a)

**Solway Township Resolution #2022-2**

Appointing Election Judges for March Township Election

**Whereas,** Minnesota Statutes Section 203B.21, subd.2 requires the Town Board, as the governing body of the town, to appoint Election Judges for the town election scheduled to be held Tuesday, March 8, 2022; and

**Whereas,** the election judges must meet the qualifications set out in Minnesota Statutes 204B.19 including eligibility to vote; and

**Whereas,** the minimum number of required election judges for the town election pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 204B.22 has been determined to be three for the March 8, 2022 election for the Town of Solway. The board approved the following election judges:

Bonnie Siiro

Clare Stromlund

Leon Forstrom

Butch Lund

Alt: Amy Johnson

**Be it Further Resolved:** That the Town Board of the Town of Solway hereby authorizes any election judge to be compensated as required by Minnesota Statutes Section 204B.31, in an amount set by the Town Board at \$15.00 per hour for election judges and \$15.00 per hour for the head election judge, which is not less than the prevailing Minnesota minimum wage, plus mileage. The clerk may make election judge appointments to fill vacancies should they occur.

Adopted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept Solway Township Resolution #2022-2.

b) The annual election and meeting are coming up. Masking will depend on what mandates are in place at the time. The election area will be set up in a format that allows distancing.

c) The Deputy/Clerk is currently filling the Clerk position. There were two interviews set up but one cancelled and one was a no show. The possibility of asking the Midway Clerk if she would like to put in hours at Solway has been brought up. Deputy/Clerk Johnson is taking care of the

office duties for the time being with office hours on Tuesday and Thursday. Regena Merritt is available to come back in April to help out.

**d)** Following the Town Board meeting the Board of Audit will be taking place.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks and to deal with the clerk resignation. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

**BOARD OF AUDIT:** Supervisors Gajewski, Welsh and Stromlund attended the Board of Audit in Person at the Solway Town Hall. The Township Supervisors reviewed the books, receipts and disbursements with the Clerk and Treasurer and found them to be in order. The Board of Audit adjourned at 9:00 PM