

The Solway Town Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Solway Town Hall by Chairperson Scott Welsh, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Ron Gajewski, Clerk Autumn Marquardt, Treasurer Cindy Moe and seven concerned citizens. Supervisor Clare Stromlund was absent.

Rotation of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson was tabled until the April meeting.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of February 11, 2020 as presented.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report dated February 29, 2020.

Checking:17825-17859

Beginning Balance	\$267,463.54	
Receipts	\$14,442.16	
Disbursements	\$-14,069.49	
Ending Balance	<u>\$267,836.21</u>	\$267,836.21

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,164.35	
Interest/Deposits	\$17.90	
Withdrawals	\$0.00	
Ending Balance	<u>\$109,182.25</u>	<u>\$109,182.25</u>

Total Accounts **\$377,018.46**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

2/25 St. Louis County Planning and Community Development – Information regarding the variance requested at 6872 Hwy 194. The meeting for this variance request took place on March 12, 2020. No new information has been received. No Board action.

3/04 St. Louis County Public Health – Request for emergency contact information in regards to the Covid-19 pandemic currently taking place. Clerk Marquardt has left the Township email as the emergency email as she has access to this email at home.

3/05 Inpro – James Madigan put in a quote request for rub rails to place around the front entrance to prevent further damage from tables rubbing against the walls. The quote came back at \$312. This quote includes the rub rails, the adhesive and a tax that the township will not have to pay. Supervisor Gajewski noted that Mr. Madigan had researched and was unable to find any local places to purchase the rub rails. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to purchase the rub rails from Inpro.

3/15 Nancy Carrier – Notice that AARP smart driver classes will be cancelled until further notice and information on what drivers who need to take the class can do for their insurance companies. Clerk Marquardt will add this information to the township website for residents.

3/16 Como Oil and Propane – Quote for Propane for the Town Hall, Fire Hall, and Garage. Tabled until the April meeting. The quote came in at \$1.029.

3/17 Superior Fuel – Quote for Propane for the Town Hall, Fire Hall, and Garage. Tabled until the April meeting. The quote came in at \$1.049.

3/17 Arrowhead Library System – Information regarding the closure of the Bookmobile due to the Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing standards. The Arrowhead Library system will keep the township updated on when the Bookmobile will reopen.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: a) Treasurer Moe has five additional bills, not listed on the Outstanding Bills list:

- James Madigan for the amount of \$35.35 for cellphone and mileage.
- MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the electorates recommendation to make a \$100 donation to each the South St. Louis County Fair, Night to Shine, and the Proctor Chem Free Grad Party.
- Grand Forks Fire Equipment in the amount of \$15,182.56 for 5 sets of protective fire gear and 14 helmets for the Fire Department.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to pay all bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list presented by the Town Treasurer and the additional bills presented for a total amount of \$28,222.14.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a) Robert Stoneman was present to question the building of a cell tower that is taking place on the corner of Maple Grove Rd. and Canosia Rd. Mr. Stoneman questioned why the neighbors were not informed that this tower was going to be built. Supervisor Welsh explained to Mr. Stoneman, that he believes the approval of this tower happened about 3 or 4 years ago and any resident living within a ¼ mile should have been notified. The Solway comprehensive land use committee met at the time to make a recommendation. Some members of the committee were against the building of the tower. A representative of the company that is building the tower did attend that meeting as a courtesy to advise that the tower was being built regardless of community input. Mr. Stoneman is concerned that the tower will be unsightly and what the effect on home values in that area will be. Supervisor Welsh advised that concerns on the effects on home values can be directed to Sean Worthington, the County Assessor.

b)

ROAD: a) The date for the road inspection has been set for Friday April 24th beginning at 8am and ending around 12pm.

b) Clerk Marquardt and Supervisor Gajewski received calls about water flooding Sandberg Rd. Supervisor Gajewski advised that he and Jim Lindquist looked at Sandberg Rd. and the culverts around the 3rd week of January but the water became more of a problem with rain and warm weather. Shelton's Excavating cut ditches across the road and filled them with rock to allow for water to flow across the road. Jim Lindquist will do the follow up work on this road including: replacing a culvert and cleaning the ditch to prevent the flooding from happening again. Mr. Lindquist questioned if St. Louis County had steamed the culverts previously like was requested. Supervisor Gajewski believes that they did. Supervisor Gajewski also noted that Shelton's Excavating has dug out the culvert a little more. This is the first time that this has been a problem.

c) The "Dead End" sign that was stolen from the Van Gassler Rd. has been replaced. James Madigan and Supervisor Gajewski installed the sign.

Fire: a) Chief Nick Priolo gave a report that states there has been a total of 29 calls.

b) The new entry gear that was ordered has been delivered.

- c) The new washer at the fire hall has been installed. The old washer has been disposed of.
- d) The Fire Department has built their own gear dryer that uses forced air and pushes it through the gear for complete and faster drying. The Department saved around \$5,000 making their own dryer.
- e) The “No Parking” signs have been installed in front of the Fire Hall.
- f) Supervisor Gajewski questioned if the dents in the overhead doors at the Fire Hall have been filled yet. Chief Priolo stated that they have not had time to do this and asked if James Madigan can fill the dents for them.
- g) Chief Priolo questioned the board about getting another 5 sets of entry gear this year. It was discussed at the 2021 budget meeting to keep money in the fire fund for purchase of gear and CB bottles. Mark Vogel advised that they will have another 4 FireFighters that will be able to enter a fire in May and they would like new gear for them when they are able to do so. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to spend up to \$11,000 on 5 more sets of gear for the Fire Department.
- h) The Fire Department noted that despite the current Covid-19 pandemic, they are still responding to calls. The process of how they respond to a call will change slightly with social distancing in mind when possible. Lisa Vogel reminded everyone to wash your hands and to stay home if you are not feeling well. Ms. Vogel noted that UV rays are good for you during this time.

RECYCLING: a) Horst Blumerich advised that the new flagging system on filled dumpsters is working well and that the new flyers are up on the dumpsters as well. Supervisor Gajewski questioned if Mr. Blumerich was still ok with keeping the recycling shed open during this time. Mr. Blumerich stated that he is ok with staying open and the idea may be discussed again in the future depending on the spread of the Coronavirus.

- HALL:** a) Clerk Marquardt has purchased 8 new outdoor light fixtures for outside of the Town Hall along the ramp and front entrance. The lights have not been installed yet.
- b) The vinyl buffer or “rub rails” for the Town Hall was discussed under correspondence.

PARK: a) Supervisor Gajewski completed the monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report and advised that the park is in good shape. It was noted that the Wooden beam structure used for the swings on the lower playground will need to be replaced with a steel structure.

b) Supervisor Gajewski questioned if the board should consider getting extra help during the summer for work around the town hall that needs to get done. Supervisor Gajewski has been in contact with Leon Forstrom who advised he is willing to help out around the hall if it is needed. Horst Blumerich also stated that he is available to help with the maintenance and groundskeeping as well. Supervisor Gajewski made note that Mr. Forstrom already knows what needs to be done around the hall and so there would be no additional training. The board has decided to bring Mr. Forstrom back at \$19.00/hr which is what he was making previously. Mr. Blumerich will make \$17.00/hr when performing maintenance or groundskeeping. A motion was not needed as Mr. Forstrom is still currently on the payroll at this time.

CEMETERY: a) Supervisor Gajewski questioned the deposit amount the township requires for burials that do not have a monument already purchased. The current deposit is \$175. Supervisor Gajewski contacted Duluth Monument and received a price of \$200 for a monument that is 16X8X4. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to raise the deposit amount for markers from \$175 to \$300 to cover the cost of the monument and the installation.

COMMITTEES: a) Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: a) Lobby Day has been cancelled.

b) The spring short courses that are put on by the Minnesota Association of Townships that were to take place in April have been postponed.

c) The Duluth Area Townships meeting and the St. Louis County Association of Townships meetings have been cancelled for the month of March.

NEW BUSINESS: a) At the annual meeting the electorate discussed the possibility of the township having a Farmers Market in the parking lot. There was interest in having the Farmers Market and it was suggested that it run the same times as the recycling shed. An article will be placed in the Solway Section Lines in regards to opening a Farmers Market. Residents are encouraged to call the Township office with any feedback.

b) Clerk Marquardt has received all necessary paperwork for the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting that will be taking place on April 7, 2020 from 4pm to 5pm.

c) At the annual meeting hiring extra police protection and publishing changes are two issues that arose. Officer Sobczak advised the electorate that calls in Solway Township were higher than the previous year. Clerk Marquardt reached out to Sheriff Ross Litman for more information on hiring police protection. Sheriff Litman advised that it would be an estimated cost of \$65/hr to hire an officer. It would cost around \$100,000 a year to hire a police officer to be in the township full time. These were just estimated numbers. Clerk Marquardt will reach out for more information regarding times that the Township would need the extra police presence and the areas that it would be needed. This will be placed on the April agenda.

d) Discussion of adding the Pine Knot to the current list of publishing places was brought up as some people do not get the Pine Journal. Clerk Marquardt will add the Pine Knot to the publishing list.

e) Due to the Presidential Primary that will take place in August, the regular town board meeting will need to be moved to August 18th. Motion by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to move the August town board meeting from August 11th to August 18th.

f) Chairperson Welsh advised that he may be absent from the May town board meeting as he'll be out of town. At this time due to the Coronavirus he is unsure and stated that they will play this by ear.

g) Supervisor Gajewski and Clerk Marquardt have finished the newsletter. There were no additional comments or additions.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welshi and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Date Approved

Town Board Chair

Town Clerk