

The Solway Town Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Solway Town Hall by Chairperson Ron Gajewski, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Scott Welsh and Clare Stromlund, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe and five 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. Re-elected Supervisor Ron Gajewski was sworn in as Supervisor prior to the Board meeting.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of February 12, 2019 as presented.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report dated February 28, 2019.

**Checking:17317-17353**

Beginning Balance	\$244,427.12	
Receipts	19,858.98	
Disbursements	<u>\$-19,757.25</u>	
Ending Balance	\$244,528.85	<b>\$244,528.85</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,055.23	
Interest/Deposits	\$17.63	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,072.86	<b><u>\$109,072.86</u></b>

**Total Accounts** **\$353,601.71**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**2/12 Minnesota Association of Townships** - Information on the Spring Short Course at the DECC on April 5, 2019. This is a training session for Township Officials. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried that any Township Officer be allowed to attend the Spring Short Course at Township expense.

**2/12 St.Louis County Planning & Community Development** - 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2018 permits issued for Solway Township. Informational, no board action.

**2/12 SLC Assessor's Office** - Notice of Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting for Solway Township scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. The Clerk will publish the meeting as required.

**2/14 St. Louis County Land & Minerals Department** - Classification of two parcels of state tax forfeited land in Solway Township to non- conservation. The Town Board may reply to the County if they disagree with the classification. No board action.

**2/14 University of Minnesota Extension** - Application of wood ash to the land at 6789 Arrowhead Road. No board action.

**2/26 Shelton Excavating** - Aggregate Tax reporting form and payment.

**2/28 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development** - Board of Adjustment Public Hearing for a variance at 6246 Hwy 194. Last month the Town Board sent a resolution recommending approval of this variance.

**2/28 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development** - Decision of St. Louis County Planning Commission decision for a Conditional Use permit for a wedding venue/event center at 3867 Sandberg Rd. This permit was approved with conditions regarding septic, parking and liquor.

**3/7 Pine Journal** - Affidavit of Publication for Town Annual Meeting and Election.

**3/11 Andren's** - Invitation to Andren's 123<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Party on April 23, 2019 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

**3/11 MATIT Agency** - Insurance card for new Fire Department trailer.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** a) Treasurer Moe has additional bills for flooding the ice rink to Brandon Porter for \$110.00, Amber Porter for \$71.50, Nick Priolo for \$110.00, Veronica Priolo for \$110.00, Brenda Tario for \$11.00. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to pay all bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list presented by the Town Treasurer and additional bills presented for a total amount of \$20,052.26.

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

**ROAD:** a) The Board needs to set a date for the yearly road inspection. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to hold the yearly road inspection on Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM to noon. The Board will take special notice of Wargin Road where there are trees that need to be cut back and ditching for proper drainage.

Supervisor Welsh mentioned that at the Annual Meeting a Township resident has some concerns about the grading and dust control on Township Roads. The Board feels the roads are in good condition as they have not received any complaints about the roads in a long time.

**Fire:** Chief Nick Priolo reported a total of 17 calls year to date. This includes 12 medical calls and 5 fire calls. All the fire calls were mutual aid, none in Solway Township.

a) Truck #2 water gauge is fixed.

c) Truck #3 still needs some welding finished up on the tank. There is still one small pinhole leak in the old welding.

d) Engine #6 passenger rear tail light and turn signal not working. The Department will get EAM to look at it and schedule the needed pump testing for the trucks at the same time.

e) The Department would like a back up camera for truck #7 to make hooking up to the trailer easier. The Board directed the Department to get bids for this work and bring them to the next Board meeting.

**RECYCLING:** a) Paul Dunaiski reported things are going great.

b) The Board discussed use of the recycling building after the inside carts are picked up. The Clerk will contact WLSSD to see what the options are. The Board is thinking of using the building for storage and a Farmer's Market.

**HALL:** a) Nothing to report.

**PARK:** a) The warming shed building's exterior is completed and when the inside is completed the door closures will be installed. There will need to be some landscaping/ fill needed around the building after the concrete pads in front of the doors are finished.

**b)** The Community Development Block Grant Funds for handicapped accessible playground equipment have been received.

**c)** The east/west fence adjacent to the lower playgrounds has many fence posts that are rotted. The Board feels they should be replaced with green treated posts. There are posts available that also have a ground compound in them to keep the posts from deteriorating. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to research types of landscaping posts and replace the broken ones in the park area as weather permits.

**d)** At the Annual Meeting Township resident Tracy Blue brought forward information and a petition to have a dog park at the Solway Town Hall site. Tracy presented much very detailed information about the dog parks in Duluth and the surrounding area. She presented a petition with approximately 188 signatures. Most of the signatures are from Duluth and other areas as far as Mahtowa and the North Shore. There are also some signatures via Facebook. The electorate at the Annual Meeting expressed concerns of Township liability and that there could be incidents with lots of children coming and going for soccer games in the parking lot. It was also mentioned that most Solway residents have a large enough yard that their dogs run at home. Tracy mentioned that dogs need to socialize with other dogs and the park would help facilitate this. The possibility of a dog park was in the Township Newsletter but no comments were received at the hall office. The show of hands at the Annual Meeting showed 12 opposed 7 in favor and 2 that didn't care. Because of this, the Board will take no action. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to table the dog park idea indefinitely.

**e)** The monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report completed by Chairperson Gajewski shows no hazards and the parks, fields and township grounds are found to be in good condition.

**CEMETERY:** **a)** Many residents have been putting solar lighted decorations on the gravesites at the cemetery. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to allow solar powered lights at the cemetery year-round.

**COMMITTEES:** **a)** Nothing to report

**OLD BUSINESS:** **a)** Nothing to report

**NEW BUSINESS:** **a)** Town Board Meeting dates will need to be changed because of the May 14<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> elections for County Commissioner. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to change the Town Board Meeting in May to the 21<sup>st</sup> and the August meeting to the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**b)** Four election judges are needed for the General Elections on May 14, 2019 and August 13, 2019. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to appoint Bonnie Siiro, Amy Johnson, Leon Forstrom and Butch Lund as election judges. Mary Busch will be the alternate.

**c)** The Board reviewed Township wages and felt a increase was in order to keep pace with other Township as our wages have remained the same for four years. The Board discussed how much to raise the hourly wages. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski, and carried unanimously to raise Township employee wages \$3.00 per hour except for the skating rink attendant which will go to \$10.00 per hour effective March 1, 2019. The election judge wage was raised to \$15.00 at a previous Town Board Meeting.

**d)** The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.

**e)** Leon Forstrom is interested in the open Groundskeeper/ Hall Maintenance position. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to hire Leon Forstrom

for the Groundskeeper and Hall Maintenance positions at the same wage level as before he retired.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to go into a closed meeting at 7:30 PM to review resumes for the Town Clerk position. After looking over resumes and discussing them, the Board picked six individuals to call in for interviews and in addition a list of five more for interviews if the Board found no one on the first list. Supervisor Welsh and Treasurer Moe will begin interviews next week. Clerk Merritt will call candidates to set up interview times.

Regular meeting re-opened at 8:00 PM

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.