

The Solway Town Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Solway Town Hall by Chairperson Clare R. Stromlund, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Scott Welsh and Ron Gajewski, 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 Gajewski to the position of Chairperson and Supervisor Welsh as Vice-Chair for the coming year. Re-elected Supervisor Clare R. Stromlund was sworn in as Supervisor prior to the board meeting.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of February 13, 2018.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the monthly Final Treasurer's report dated February 28, 2018.

**February 28, 2018**

**Checking:16800-16844**

Beginning Balance	\$366,003.32	
Receipts	16,189.52	
Disbursements	<u>\$-19,649.62</u>	
Ending Balance	\$362,543.22	<b>\$362,543.22</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	<b>\$ 108,946.23</b>	
Interest/Deposits	\$17.61	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$108,963.84	<b><u>\$108,963.84</u></b>

**Total Accounts**

**\$471,507.06**

**2/21 St. Louis County Community Planning** - Facts and Findings and approval with conditions for a bulk fuel storage facility for Airport Fuels, Inc. No board action.

**2/27 Duluth News Tribune/Pine Journal** - Affidavit of publication for election machine testing for upcoming Township Election.

**3/2 St. Louis County Public Works** - Clarifications from Brian Boder regarding the new pilot beaver control program that was presented at the CAT meeting. Informational, no board action.

**3/2 Kristin Fogard, St. Louis County AG Inspector** - via email. Ms Fogard will be at the April 25<sup>th</sup> CAT meeting at Solway Town Hall to address any questions and concerns about the MN Weed Law and Noxious weeds. No board action.

**3/6 Lori Blais, WLSSD** - Question regarding hours of operation. Recycling attendant Paul Dunaiski had asked the Board to change the shed open hours on Wednesday from 3:30PM – 6:30PM to 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. There is not much activity after 6:00 PM especially in the winter months. The Town Clerk emailed Lori Blais as WLSSD to see if this was agreeable with them and Ms. Blais stated there should be no problem with changing the Wednesday recycling shed hours to 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM from 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM. It was also confirmed that the Saturday hours are 7:00 AM to noon. The Board will put the new hours in the newsletter.

**3/15 Karen Anderson, WLSSD** Western Lake Superior Sanitary District is requesting a letter of support from the Township to the state legislators for funding assistance for one-half the cost to purchase and install generators to produce electricity and heat at their regional wastewater treatment plant, using methane-rich biogas produced during wastewater treatment. This issue was first introduced in 2015. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to send letters supporting WLSSD's combined heat and power energy project to the state legislators mentioned on the letter from WLSSD.

**3/19 Augustana Lutheran Church** –Information and address to send a donation to “Nite to Shine” event held at Proctor High School.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** a) Treasurer Moe has an addition to the following Outstanding Bills List:

- North State Service for garbage service at the town hall for \$108.91
- EAM for repairs to fire trucks in the amount of \$1,824.22: for truck #2 valve repair \$661.55; truck #2 transducer \$903.02; truck #6 \$259.87 to repair a water leak.

The following donations were approved by the Electorate at the Annual Meeting on March 13, 2018.

- South St. Louis County Fair Board donation of \$100
- Proctor Chem-Free grad party donation of \$100
- Nite 2 Shine at Proctor High School donation of \$100

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to pay all outstanding bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills list as presented by the Town Treasurer and the additional bills listed for a total amount of \$45,399.77.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERN:** a) Chairperson Gajewski received a complaint from a resident that they had complained to St. Louis County Sheriff's Department of shooting outside the shooting range building on Highway 2. After the Sheriff checked out the complaint, the owner told them that they are allowed to shoot outside at the shooting range. The Conditional Use Permit states an indoor shooting range. The Township resident was told to contact County Commissioner Pete Stauber and St. Louis County Planning and Zoning. The resident has notified Commissioner Stauber and was told that he will take action.

**ROAD:** a) A Township resident came to the Township office with a question about a Cartway. After talking with the resident and explaining the Cartway procedure, he is going to try to exchange property with an adjoining property owner in order to give access to his property.

b) The Township office has received notices from Ron Johnson and three others requesting the Town Board to make the Swanson Cartway into a private driveway. The Board Motioned last month to leave the Cartway public. The Board has left Cartways public in the past to facilitate future development of adjacent properties. The Board has done what is required of them and no further action will be taken on this matter.

c) The Town Board discussed the date for the annual road inspection. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to hold the annual road inspection Friday April 27, 2018 8:00 AM to noon.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** a) Fire Chief Nick Priolo reported a total of 21 calls year-to-date: 12 medical, 6 fires and 3 vehicle accidents.

- b)** Supervisor Welsh will be attending the next Fire Department business meeting.
- c)** The Department is researching building codes for smoke detectors and CO2 alarms in the fire hall.
- d)** Chief Priolo reported that the free smoke alarm program goes for seven years.
- e)** The water gauges on truck #2 have been fixed.
- f)** The Town Board has received information regarding training with pipeline companies. Chief Priolo stated that the Fire Department also has this information and has attended training regarding pipelines.
- g)** Chief Priolo also mentioned some of the firefighters are volunteering to re-roof a garage for an elderly Township resident.
- h)** Firefighter Brandon Porter has been raising funds for an enclosed cascade/rehab trailer. Essentia, First Bank in Proctor and Proctor Credit Union have donated.

**RECYCLING:** **a)** Recycling shed hours were discussed under Correspondence.

**HALL:** **a)** Chairperson Gajewski reported that the newly installed door opener downstairs in the hall needs to be adjusted so it releases when the door is locked and the opening button is pushed. He also mentioned that there is an additional section of rail needed along the side door platform. The wooden handrail that has been installed is temporary and one made of the same material as the railing has been ordered.

**b)** The Board discussed the issue of residents who rent the town hall and leave it not cleaned up. Raising the damage deposit would make the renters more likely to clean so they would then get the deposit back. The Board would also like in the contract that any cleaning needed by Town Personal will be charged to renter at \$100 per hour. It was suggested that pictures of the hall layout be posted to show renters how the hall needs to be left. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to raise damage deposit for alcohol parties to \$600. The Board will revisit this issue next year to see if raising the deposit makes a difference. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to charge renters for any additional cleaning needed by Township personnel at the rate of \$100 per hour. The Clerk will re-write the rental contract.

**c)** It was mentioned to make the Town Hall a shelter by installing a generator like the Fire Hall. The Board feels the Fire Hall could be used as a shelter in a power outage. An addendum will be added to the Fire Hall rental agreement allowing this usage in the event of a major power outage.

**d)** The Board discussed allowing rummage sales at the hall. In the past there has been some large group sales with small machinery. The Board would like only "family" type sales with household goods at the hall and would allow only two days for sales. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to allow only family type rummage sales at the town hall and these sales may be either Friday and Saturday, or Saturday and Sunday.

**e)** The rugs inside the Town Hall are well worn and need to be replaced. The Board looked at several options. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to purchase four economy mat style rugs from Consolidated Plastics for the town hall: a 6' by 12' to place at the main entrance to the hall; a 3' by 6" in front of the ramp side door along with a 3' by 11' runner to the office door; and a 3' by 8' to place in front of the kitchen pass through counter.

**f)** Chairperson Gajewski reported there appears to be a leak in the roof above the stage as the ceiling tiles are stained. He has contacted Miller's roofing and they will be out this coming week to look at it.

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

b) At the Annual Town Meeting, building a new warming shed with the Proctor School referendum monies was discussed. School Board member Larry Shelton mentioned that the construction class at Proctor High School may be interested in building the warming shed. Chairperson Gajewski will get in touch with the class instructor Lowell Harnell to see if this is possible.

c) The Township has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$16,000 for handicapped accessible playground equipment. The Board discussed the types of equipment available. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to get playground equipment using the CDBG grant funds and to spend up to \$12,000 assuming the funds are covered by the grant.

**CEMETERY:** a) There is nothing new on the status of the burial resolution from Mike Couri. The electorate at the Annual Meeting made some clarifications of those eligible for burial.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** a) The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting has been changed to May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.

**NEW BUSINESS:** a) The Clerk mentioned that she will be hiring a Deputy Clerk that will also serve as an office assistant.

b) There is a Minnesota Association of Townships instructional short course on Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> at the DECC. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously for any Board member wishing to attend the short course at the DECC on April 7<sup>th</sup> be allowed to do so at Township expense.

c) There is a Town Law Review class put on by Minnesota Association of Townships in Burnsville on April 19<sup>th</sup>. No board members will be attending.

d) Leon Forstrom gave the Board the name and phone number of someone he feels will be interested in the groundkeeper position as Leon plans to retire this summer. Supervisor Welsh will contact this person.

e) It was mentioned that there is a batting cage in disrepair by the baseball field. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to contact the owner and have the batting cage removed.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting upon the Board completing signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.