

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 and Clare Stromlund, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe and ten concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of March 19, 2019 as presented.

MOTION made by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report dated March 31, 2019.

**Checking:17354-17404**

Beginning Balance	\$244,528.85	
Receipts	2,186.85	
Disbursements	<u>\$-20,052.26</u>	
Ending Balance	\$226,663.44	<b>\$226,663.44</b>

**Money Market**

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

**Total Accounts** **\$335,736.30**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**3/26 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development** - Notice of Public Hearing CalZion Construction scheduled for Thursday April 11, 2019. The Board sent a recommendation at a previous meeting.

**3/28 Minnesota Department of Health** - Sanitary survey report for Town Hall. No issues were found.

**3/28 Town & Country Garages** - Lien Waiver, warranty and maintenance info for completed warming shed.

**3/25 Minnesota Association of Townships** - Town Law Review training available. No Board action.

**3/19 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development** - Finding of fact, conclusions and decision RE: Parrott Conditional Use for a wedding venue. No Board action.

**4/1 St. Louis County Planning & Community Development** - Decision of Board of Adjustment- Calzion variance. No Board action.

**4/2 Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P.** - Proposal for legal services and legal seminar on Saturday Oct. 5, 2019 at the Cotton Hall. This will be addressed at the July Town Board meeting.

**4/2 KTM** - 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018 Aggregate Tax reporting form and payment

**4/2 Kivi Aggregate** - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 Aggregate Tax reporting form and payment,

**4/9 James Lindquist** - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019 Aggregate Tax reporting form.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** a) Treasurer Moe has four additional bills as follows:

- Kim Kuehl for town hall cleaning in the amount of \$989.35
- Laurie Mickelson for town hall rental deposit in the amount of \$25.00

- Two checks to Scott Nylund the first is for \$875.00 for painting the interior of the warming shed, and the second is a down payment of \$742.50 for concrete walkways around the warming shed.

MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh 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 \$19,184.54.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) Saginaw Road resident Mel Harvey addressed the Board regarding an event at the Saginaw Union Station horse arena where the riders shot at targets. Last year the event was three days with shooting going on most of the day for the three days. Mr. Harvey was disturbed by the shooting and is hoping the Board could put time limit on the shooting. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to not allow the shooting event at the Saginaw Union Station. The Clerk will notify the owner of the arena.

b) Tracy Blue and Daniel Ward attended the meeting to share their concerns of how Tracy was treated at the Annual Meeting where a dog park was an agenda item. She has a complaint that some in attendance at the meeting showed her disrespect and the moderator should have stepped in. She hopes this type of activity is not repeated. She was also concerned that the issue of the dog park was not gotten to until it was very late in the evening and she felt the meeting started too late. The Township Election and Annual Meeting date and time is set in Minnesota state statute. Also she feels if the Township supports the Dog agility trials, they should be in support of a dog park. The Dog Agility trial is not a township sponsored event, the Dog Association rents the hall and grounds for their annual event. The electorate was concerned that there would be folks from other areas using the park. She mentioned that the people attending soccer games, National Night Out, and the Winter Fun Day are not all from the Township, so the reasoning that the dog park would draw folks from surrounding areas is not valid. There were many signatures on the petition that was presented at the Annual Meeting from Duluth and further south and up the North Shore which led the electorate to feel a dog park would be used by many from out of the area. Chairperson Welsh stated that the dog park is a dead issue as the electorate at the Annual Meeting voted against the Township using funds to develop a dog park. He explained that the electorate that cares to attend the Annual Meeting are the ones who vote on the Budget and Levy for the following year. Levy approval is also set forth in Minnesota state statute and is the primary business for the Annual Meeting. Tracy also wondered why a survey was sent out to residents asking their concerns for internet service, and why couldn't this be done for a dog park. Treasurer Moe explained that the Board was told by internet service providers that in order to get any expanded service we would need to send a survey and get at least 90% of people interested in upgrading. Tracy stated the Township would not be responsible if there were accidents or injuries in the park because a sign would be posted and this would negate township liability. The Board feels a sign would not stop someone from bringing a lawsuit if there was an injury.

**ROAD:** a) During the yearly road inspection that will be held Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM to noon. The Board has been asked to take special notice of Wargin Road where there are trees that need to be cut back and ditching needed for proper drainage.

b) Supervisor Gajewski is wondering if Larry Shelton is available to come along on the Road Inspection. Jim Lindquist was asked if he feels Mr. Shelton should be present. He stated that

he and Mr. Shelton have a system where Shelton's deliver the gravel and Mr. Lindquist spreads and grades the road.

**Fire:** Chief Nick Priolo reported a total of 23 calls year to date. This includes 18 medical calls and 5 fire calls. All the fire calls were mutual aid, none in Solway Township.

a) Engine #6 passenger rear tail light and turn signal is not working. The Department has scheduled EAM to do the pump testing on #6 and will have the tail light and turn signal fixed at the same time.

c) Pump testing is scheduled for tomorrow.

d) The Department has two quotes for a back up camera for truck #7 to make hooking up to the trailer easier. One from Dad's Electric for \$1199.00 and one from Auto Audio for \$650.25. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to go ahead with the installation of a rear back up camera on truck #7 by Auto Audio in the amount of \$650.00. The Board requested the Department find out if there is any warranty on the work.

e) Truck #3 has the repair welding finished and is getting the rear decals put on.

f) The Department informed the Board that ladders and hoses need to be certified yearly. Chief Priolo has a quote from Fire Cat for this work. MOTION by Stromlund seconded by Welsh and carried to have the required hose testing and ladder certification done by Fire Cat and enter into a three-year contract for this to be done yearly in the amount \$1890.00.

g) Supervisor Gajewski mentioned that at a short course he attended "Auto-Aid" for fire departments was talked about instead of Mutual Aid. Chief Priolo said they are using "Auto Aid". Supervisor Gajewski also mentioned that there has been an issue fighting fires on building that have solar panels on the roof an additional might be required. Chief Priolo said that he will look into additional training.

The Department has given the Board an updated list of firefighters.

**RECYCLING:** a) Paul Dunaiski reported things are going great though the carts inside the recycling shed have not been picked up by Waste Management.

**HALL:** a) The person who does the regular hall cleaning said she knows of someone who does window washing. The Board directed the Clerk to look into what it would cost to have the windows washed.

b) Supervisor Gajewski mentioned the hall air conditioner needs to be checked for the summer season.

**PARK:** a) Supervisor Gajewski reported that the tail direction sign on the Witte Trail has been stolen. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to re-order the trail directional sign spending up to \$200.00.

b) Supervisor Gajewski reported that the closure is broken on the rented biffie at the town hall. Portable John has brought a new unit this morning to replace the one with the broken door closure.

c) Scott Nylund has completed the interior work at the warming house. Supervisor Gajewski reported that the heater in the warming house was not working because of a broken element. It has been fixed. Supervisor Gajewski spoke with Mr. Nylund about some additional concrete work outside the warming house for a cost of \$1,485.00. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to have Scott Nylund do additional concrete work around the exterior of the warming house in the amount of \$1,485.00.

**d)** 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)** There are a couple of pending burials for this spring.

**COMMITTEES: a)** Nothing to report

**OLD BUSINESS: a)** Dog park was addressed under citizen's concerns.

**b)** Supervisor Gajewski reported that at the spring short course he learned that during the annual Board of Audit, the Supervisors should be reviewing receipts along with the disbursement that have been auditing.

**c)** The newsletter went out the first week in April.

**NEW BUSINESS: a)** The Annual County Association of Townships meeting and Banquet is scheduled for Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 PM. The Board will let the Clerk know who is attending so she can RSVP by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**b)** Clerk Merritt will be retiring this coming August. Supervisor Welsh reported that several candidates have been interviewed for her position and he and Treasurer Moe recommend hiring Autumn Marquardt. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to hire Autumn Marquardt for the position of Town Clerk. The Clerk will notify the other candidates that they were not selected.

St. Louis County Commissioner candidate Wayne Boucher introduced himself to the Board asking for support in the upcoming election.

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 8:45 pm.