

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, Clerk Autumn Marquardt, Treasurer Cindy Moe and 2 concerned citizens. Supervisor Stromlund attended the meeting via teleconference.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of April 13, 2021 as presented.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report dated April 30, 2021. Treasurer Moe advised that the first half of taxes will come in at the beginning of July.

**Checking:18346-18377**

Beginning Balance	\$278,010.39	
Receipts	\$2,786.64	
Disbursements	<u>\$-9,442.40</u>	
Ending Balance	\$271,354.63	<b>271,354.63</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,288.68	
Interest/Deposits	\$4.64	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,293.32	<b><u>\$109,293.32</u></b>

**Total Accounts** **\$380,647.95**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**4/15 Ecosys** – Information flyer for a color multifunctional printer. A contract with Metro Sales, Inc. is still in place for the hall printer. No Board action.

**4/19 Northland Constructors of Duluth** – First quarter aggregate tax reporting form and payment.

**4/19 DeCaigny Excavating, Inc.** – First quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

**4/19 Coons Aggregate Supply Co.** – First quarter aggregate tax reporting form and payment.

**4/19 Road Groom Manufacturing** – Informational advertisement for grading systems that attach to the back of a tractor. The township has hired Bob Rodda to grade the roads for the season.

**4/26 Jim Sathers** – First quarter aggregate tax reporting form and payment.

**4/29 MNDOT – Thomas Lamb** – information regarding a roundabout project at Hwy #194 and Hwy #2 scheduled for 2023. The Board previously sent in a letter of support for this project.

**5/06 The Munger Tavern & Grill** – Report of Town Clerk for renewal of the liquor license for The Munger Tavern and Grill. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to approve the liquor license renewal request for The Munger Tavern and Grill. Clerk Marquardt will sign the form and forward it to St. Louis County.

**5/06 St. Louis County Planning and Community Development** – Application for a conditional use permit for 530-0010-00900 for a wedding venue/event center. The Planning Commission is meeting on June 10, 2021 to discuss this permit. The Board has no objections to the permit and

have not heard from any residents regarding the permit. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to send an email to the St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department notifying them that the Board reviewed the application for Kevin Swanson for a condition use permit for 530-0010-00900 and have no objections or further comments.

**5/11 Pit 56, Inc.** – First quarter aggregate tax reporting form.

### **OUTGOING COORESPONDENCE**

**4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5 WLSSD** – Recycling tracking forms

**OUTSTANDING BILLS:** a) Treasurer Moe has one additional bill not listed on the Outstanding Bills List:

- Scott Welsh in the amount of \$35.84 for mileage.

MOTION by Gajewski, 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 \$18,464.34.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS:** a) There have been two phone calls and one email sent to the hall with zoning complaints regarding a property on the Lindrose Rd. The complaints have been directed to St. Louis County Planning and Community Development and Sean Worthington with the Assessors office for further consideration.

**ROAD:** a) Chairperson Gajewski, Supervisor Welsh, Leon Forstrom, Bob Rodda, and Clerk Marquardt attended the road inspection on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Township is in a transition period regarding road grading with the retirement of Jim Lindquist. Mr. Lindquist had all of the roads up to date and Bob Rodda is discovering while grading that many roads have enough gravel on them already. In the past the Board has followed the same method of determining how much gravel to place on the road, with Mr. Rodda grading the roads, things will be different. During the road inspection it was determine that 167 loads of gravel would be needed but Mr. Rodda has informed Chairperson Gajewski that the township roads probably will not need all of the gravel that was discussed. Supervisor Welsh and Chairperson Gajewski have driven some of the roads that have been graded and noted that they are very well done. Traditionally the township has put all the gravel on the roads at one time but this could change and gravel could be placed as concerns arise. The Board has decided to approve 99 loads of gravel for the township roads. Sheltons Excavating provides the class 5 gravel for the roads but the Board has not received any quotes yet.

b) Clerk Marquardt received the bid that St. Louis County has granted for Calcium Chloride. Supervisor Welsh noted that he thought that the trucks that the County goes with are not able to do the smaller township roads. Supervisor Gajewski questioned if he should get into contact with Jake Demenge regarding calcium chloride and brushing. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to employ Jake Demenge to apply calcium chloride to the township roads. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to request Jake Demenge put the township down for brushing on all of the township roads.

c) During the road inspection, there were several culverts spotted that had been damaged by snow plows that needed to be repaired. Bob Rodda is able to cut the culverts at an angle to repair the damage.

d) Greg Bottila has fixed the brakes on the roadside mower. Chairperson Gajewski notified the Board that Mr. Bottila stated that he will not be charging for his services as he only performed some adjustments and replaced only one spring.

**e)** Sinnott Blacktop has provided an estimate of \$15,600 for cleaning, crack filling, sealing, striping and repainting the parking lot along with patching the basketball area and cutting out rocks that have pushed up through the existing blacktop. They have also provided an estimate of \$7,600 to remove, grade, install recycled concrete, and reshape the area of the parking lot by the basketball court that collects water when it rains and creates a large puddle. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to accept both estimates from Sinnott Blacktop of a total of \$23,300.

**FIRE: a)** Brandon Porter attended the meeting for the Fire Department and reported that there has been a total of 58 calls: 13 fire, 43 medical, and 2 vehicle accident. All calls were mutual aid.

**b)** There are 15 members on the Fire Department.

**c)** Mr. Porter advised the board that there are two new estimates that were adjusted to reflect new pipe routing and installing line dryers. The price would increase because the companies would not use all existing brackets and so labor would cost more than material to reroute the lines. Caldwell Heating and Plumbing would charge \$7,300, Hietala Heating and Plumbing would charge \$6,600. If the existing route were to be used for the piping Hietala Heating and Plumbing's estimate would drop down to \$6,200. Mr. Porter noted that he did not have a preference for who to work with. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to accept Hietala Heating and Plumbing's quote of \$6,200 to replace the Fire Department air lines with copper piping following the existing route and installing a line dryer.

**d)** There is no new information on grants for turnout gear for the Fire Department.

**RECYCLING: a)** Clerk Marquardt advised that a new lock has not been received yet for the dumpster, she has contacted Lorilee Blais Western Lake Superior Sanitary District regarding obtaining a new one.

**b)** The 2020 annual recycling site report and 2020 financial report were considered complete and approved by WLSSD. The 2021 Solway township Recycling Site Operations Grant was reviewed and approved in the amount of \$9,158.90. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 2021-4 to accept a grant from Western Lake Superior Sanitary District.

#### Solway Township Resolution 2021-4

##### Accepting a Grant from Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

WHEREAS, Solway Township, St. Louis County, operates a recycling program in agreement with WLSSD; and

WHEREAS, WLSSD may have funds available for communities for expenses incurred by local communities for operating recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, Solway Township submitted a grant application in the amount of \$9,158.90 on January 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, WLSSD approved the grant request of \$9,158.90 in fund on May 1, 2021;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Solway Town Board accepts the WLSSD grant of \$9,158.90 on May 11, 2021.

Chairperson Gajewski moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Welsh, and it was declared adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 upon the following votes: Yeas – Scott Welsh and Ronald Gajewski Nays – None. Supervisor Stromlund was absent during the adoption of the resolution.

**HALL: a)** Supervisor Welsh noted that during a Township Tuesday call with the Minnesota Association of Townships they discussed that it is required that an employee be present during all hall rentals to manage occupancy and to monitor social distancing practices. The Township has added the COVID-19 rental expectations in writing for residents to review and follow with the rental contract.

**b)** Chairperson Gajewski informed the Board that he has been in contact with CenturyLink regarding Solway Townships requirements for placing services lines in the township when crossing township roads and has informed them to follow St. Louis County requirements.

**c)** There will be a webinar on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 to discuss the funds from the American Rescue Plan. Clerk Marquardt will look into the SAM registration that is required to receive the funds.

**d)** Supervisor Stromlund advised that Shirley Nylund has been paying for the flowers at the townhall out of pocket. The flowers are part of the townhall landscaping. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to reimburse Shirley Nylund up to \$100 for her purchase of flowers for the townhall.

**e)** The Handicapped "No Parking" sign at the basement entrance of the hall needs to be replaced. Leon Forstrom advised that Menards carries these signs, he will pick one up.

**PARK: a)** Chairperson Gajewski completed the monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report and stated that there are no safety issues with the park. There are still a few items on the to-do list that need to be completed.

**b)** Peter Hildre has begun painting the basketball back boards, he will begin painting the supports when weather permits.

**c)** The town hall fields have been set up, Chairperson Gajewski has noticed a few groups up at the Munger field as well. The Munger field will be set up and a Portable toilet needs to be put up at the field. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to have Portable John put a portable unit at the Munger School Field.

**d)** There are old rail road ties and old timbers at the bus garage that need to be taken care of. Chairperson Gajewski questioned if he could take them home to use. Supervisor Welsh and Supervisor Stromlund have no issue with this.

**e)** There is one cast iron grill by the pavilion that has a hole in it and needs to be replaced. Leon Forstrom advised that there is a new grill at the bus garage that can be used. The new grill will be installed.

**f)** The southern window on the warming shed has a crack in it. Chairperson Gajewski stated that the crack has not spidered and that its possible that a bird may have flown into the window. If the window is dual pane it will not need to be replaced right away. The glass in the window is not loose.

**g)** The volleyball net will be set up.

**CEMETERY: a)** The Proctor Journal reported that the Memorial Day Observances will be taking place on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Chairperson Gajewski believes if Proctor is holding events, then the Honor Guard will most likely be going to the cemeteries for the Observance.

**b)** The north west tree at the cemetery may be dead as it is not budding like the others. This will be monitored.

**COMMITTEES: a)** Clerk Marquardt noted that it appears that the National Night Out will take place this year.

**b)**

**OLD BUSINESS: a)** Treasurer Moe advised she has not been able to discuss performing an aggregate supplier audit with Steve Lacari yet as tax filing was extended. She will contact him after the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**b)** At the April meeting it was suggested that the Board consider adding probationary periods into the wage scale. Steve Fenske, an attorney with the Minnesota Association of Townships provided information to the Board on instituting the probationary periods into the wage scale. The wage scale already consists of longevity pay so there is no need to add probationary periods at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS: a)** Mediacom is expanding into a small portion of the township. Supervisor Welsh spoke with a representative that advised that residents will be notified when the lines are available to be set up. This is a \$1.3 million project. A franchise agreement was sent to the town office for the Mediacom service. The Board agrees that John Bray, the township attorney, should look at the agreement before a decision is made on if it should be signed. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to forward the franchise agreement to the township attorney John Bray to review before a decision is made about signing it.

**b)** The Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Meeting will be virtual this year.

**c)** Chairperson Gajewski advised that during a scouts meeting at the hall they wanted to connect to the internet but did not have the password. Chairperson Gajewski questioned if the password should be posted for residents to be able to connect to the internet. Treasurer Moe suggested that getting an unsecured modem would be a better option so that the office computers are not on the same shared network. The cost of this option will be looked into and brought to the next meeting.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.