

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 R. Stromlund, Clerk Regena Merritt, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and five concerned citizens.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of April 10, 2018.

MOTION made by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the monthly Treasurer's report dated April 30, 2018.

Checking:16896-16928

Beginning Balance	\$317,728.45	
Receipts	3,245.46	
Disbursements	<u>\$-18,817.39</u>	
Ending Balance	\$302,156.52	\$302,156.52

Money Market

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

Total Accounts **\$411,120.36**

4/16 Como Oil & Propane – Locked in price sales agreement. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried to sign agreement to lock in pricing at \$1.24 per gallon.

4/16 St. Louis County Auditor's Office – AutoMark maintenance schedule. The Clerk will take the AutoMark in to the Duluth Court house on May 3rd for scheduled maintenance.

4/17 Northland Constructors – Second quarter Aggregate Tax form and payment.

4/19 James Sathers – Second quarter Aggregate Tax form and payment.

4/25 Pit 56 – Second quarter Aggregate Tax form.

4/29 ES&S Election Supply – Sales order agreement for new ballot counter machine. There is a grant through St Louis County in the amount of \$1,858.01 for the new machine. The cost of the new machine is \$5,715 including \$500 credit trade in for the old machine. The total from the Township will be \$3,856.99 after grant monies.

4/30 Couri & Ruppe Law Firm – Notice of free legal seminar put on by Couri & Ruppe on October 6, 2018 at the Cotton Town Hall. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund that any Board member that is available and would like to attend be allowed to do so at Township expense.

5/3 Matthew Gehrke, Trileaf Engineering – Information regarding a proposed telecommunications project in the Saginaw area. The tower will be located on Hwy 194 and Trileaf Engineering is requesting information on this tower's potential effect on historic properties. The Board has no issue with the proposed telecommunication tower.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: a) Treasurer Moe has the following bills in addition to the Outstanding Bills List:

- Emergency Apparatus Maintenance for pump testing and maintenance of the Township fire trucks #1, #6, & #2 in the amount of \$4,843.30.
- Todd Signs for hall flag in the amount of \$57.50.
- Shelton Excavating half payment in the amount of \$16,000 for class 5 gravel.
- Portable John in the amount of \$135.75 for biffie rental.
- Perrault Construction in the amount of \$9,550 as down payment for front porch construction work.

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 bill listed for a total amount of \$43,976.59.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERN: a) There was a dog complaint reported to the Town Clerk. The Township resident complaining thought the dog was from Grand Lake Township and said she will be reporting it to Grand Lake.

ROAD: a) Chairperson Gajewski mentioned that the rain gutter off of the side ramp at the town hall has been driven over and flattened in the past and maybe a concrete barrier along the ramp would stop this from happening. The Board does not feel this is necessary and would be unsightly.

b) Chairperson Gajewski reported that during the annual road inspection it was noticed that some broken trees and branches were in the road right of ways, but that no professional brushing is required this year. Leon Forstrom and Paul Dunaiski have cleared the broken trees and branches from the Township roads.

c) Chairperson Gajewski mentioned that it might be time to crack fill and paint the blacktop areas. The Board directed Chairperson Gajewski to get a quote for the next Town Board Meeting. Leon Forstrom mentioned that maybe something heavier and thicker would better fill the parking lot cracks.

d) Chairperson Gajewski reported the annual road inspection results. The Board decided to apply 152 loads of class-5 gravel to the Township roads. There are two quotes for class-5. Jim Lindquist has a quote for \$19.20 and Shelton has a quote for \$19.60. Shelton has more trucks and the gravel can be applied faster. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to go with Shelton Excavation for gravel and to have Jim Lindquist spread the gravel as it is applied.

There are two culverts that need replacing. Jim Lindquist has submitted a quote in the amount of \$2,150 for replacement of the road culvert on the North Hanson Road, and \$1,150 to replace a entrance the culvert on the Stonelake Road. Also the end of the culvert on Birchway was damaged last winter by the county snow plow. Jim felt this could be repaired and not needing replacement. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to have Jim Lindquist replace the culverts on North Hanson and Stonelake Roads for \$3,300 and to also fix the end of the culvert on Birchway road.

There are several ditching projects the Board would like to have completed. Jim Lindquist has presented a quote for approximately 1,100 feet of ditching on the Gaus Road for \$5,500; approximately 800 feet of ditching on the Heine Road for \$2,500 and approximately 200 feet of ditching on the Lindrose Road for \$900 and to remove some larger rocks from the road surface. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to have Jim Lindquist

ditch the Gaus, Heine and Lindrose Roads in the amount of \$8,900 with the Lindrose Road ditching to be done after Carlton County finishes work on the St. Louis River Road. There is also a quote for ditching and to remove trees on the Sandberg Road south of Morris Thomas Road in the amount of \$4,000. There are many large trees in the road right of way. The

Board decided to wait until later this summer for the Sandberg Road ditching and tree removal to be approved.

Some of the railroad crossing signs are in need of replacement on the Jerry Road; two 36 inch circular with an X and R's coming from the east and west sides, a 36 inch blind crossing on the south side, a 24 inch 15 MPH sign, a 36 inch triangle "look for trains" sign on the north side. Also, two 36 inch circular railroad crossing signs are needed on the Jeffrey Road. Chairperson Gajewski will contact the railroad to see if they will replace the listed signs. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to replace the seven railroad crossing signs listed above if the railroad will not do so.

Several cracks and potholes have developed in the Jeffrey Road. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to have St. Louis County fill those cracks and potholes when they are doing the county roads.

e) Chairperson Gajewski reported that Jake DeMenge has a quote of \$1.00 per gallon for calcium chloride which is applied to Township roads for dust control. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to have Jake DeMenge apply calcium chloride to Township roads not to exceed \$8,000. Chairperson will contact Mr. DeMenge to set up time to apply the calcium chloride.

f) Chairperson Gajewski mentioned that he has learned from Minnesota Association of Townships that contractors that work with the Township need a formalized contract. The Town Clerk and Chairperson Gajewski have developed a Road Contractor Agreement. The Board reviewed it and asked Jim Lindquist to review it and give the Board his thoughts. Culvert inspector for new installs needs to be added to the list of duties for the road contractor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: a) Fire Chief Nick Priolo reported a total of 33 calls year-to-date: 18 medical, 11 fires and 4 vehicle accidents.

b) The school shooting incident training arranged by Solway Fire Department went very well and was well attended.

c) Both the Fire Department and the Town Board have signed the addendum to the Fire Hall contract allowing use of the Fire Hall by residents in the event of a power outage.

d) Chief Priolo reported that all trucks have been repaired and have passed pump testing.

e) The Department has not yet heard back regarding gear grants.

f) Chief Priolo asked the Board if he could have a television antenna installed on the Fire Hall. The Department has purchased the antenna and is asking permission to install it or have the Board do the installation. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to get the television antenna installed at the Fire Hall.

RECYCLING: a) Paul Dunaiski reported that the broken lid on the cardboard dumpster has been fixed.

HALL: a) New area rugs received.

- b)** Hall rental agreement has been updated with new damage deposit amount and hourly cleaning fees if hall has not been cleaned after rental.
- c)** Chairperson Gajewski noticed the front porch is sinking down on one side. Chairperson Gajewski has spoke with Jim Perrault about this and he will be making a plan to level out the steps.
- d)** A new flag for the Town Hall flagpole has been purchased.

PARK: **a)** It was reported to the Town Clerk that there are dog droppings in a couple places on the Witte Trail. The Board would like to put up signs “all pets must be on a leash – please clean up after your pet” signs on the trail. There might be some in the hall custodian’s closet.

b) The Clerk is working on finding at least two comparable prices for various ADA playground equipment. This is a requirement for the grant. No one company has all of the items the Board would like to install. The Clerk shared that Steve Nelson from CDBG suggested that we contact two venders to get comparable pricing. Supervisor Welsh thought that was a good idea.

c) Chairperson Gajewski reported that new soccer nets and goals have been put up, and new benches and bleachers are also installed.

d) 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.

CEMETERY: **a)** The flag and solar light have been set up at the cemetery.

b) The new regulations with height and length specification for monuments have been added to the cemetery regulations.

c) The Clerk has been asked by a resident to have their husband who is buried at the cemetery moved to a different spot within our cemetery. The Board directed the Clerk to tell her that we will not move any remains, if she wants to she can do so at her own expense and liability. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously that once a burial has occurred either cremation or full burial we will not move to a different spot in the cemetery. However; family may move remains to a different cemetery if they choose.

d) Chairperson Gajewski reported that he was in contact with Bob Riley who had been interested in the groundskeeper position and he stated he was not interested in the position. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to hire Kerbie Merritt for hall maintenance and grounds keeping.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS: **a)** Minnesota Association of Townships is now calling the Summer Short Course the Summer Specialized Training. This will be held June 28, 2018 in Duluth at the DECC. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously for any Town Board personnel that is able to attend do so at Township expense.

b) The County Association of Townships Banquet and Annual Meeting is May 23rd at the Cotton Town Hall. MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to allow any Town Board member who wishes to attend do so at Township expense.

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 8:30 pm.