

The Solway Town Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Scott Welsh, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Supervisors Clare Stromlund, Ron Gajewski, Clerk /Deputy Amy Johnson, Treasurer Cindy Moe and nine concerned citizens.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of July 16, 2022 as presented.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report dated July 31, 2022.

Checking:18953-18993

Beginning Balance	\$255,188.98	
Receipts	\$275,520.08	
Disbursements	<u>\$-71,087.35</u>	
Ending Balance	\$459,621.71	\$459,621.71

Money Market

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,357.08	
Interest/Deposits	\$0.00	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,357.08	<u>\$109,357.08</u>

Total Accounts **\$568,978.79**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

7/13 Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Agency - Receipt of incident from Solway Township. A fire truck has sustained minor damage. Fire Chief Porter is getting estimates from a repair to submit to the insurance company.

the insurance company.

7/14 Jim Lindquist and KTM Paving -2nd quarter Aggregate Tax reporting form and payment. No Board action

7/15 Couri & Ruppe Law Office - Township Legal Seminar on October 1, 2022 at Cotton Town Hall.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to allow any Board member who wishes to attend do so at Township expense.

7/15 Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance - Endorsement change. This will be filed with the Insurance policy,

7/15 St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant - 2023 program open house and public hearing on fiscal year 2021 will be held on September 13th in person and remote. No Board action.

7/20 Minnesota Department of Revenue - Board of Appeal and Equalization Training available. All Town Board Supervisors have training good through July 2023. The Board members will need to take the training by February 1, 2023. This training is available online.

7/27 WLSSD - 2023 Budget & Notice of Budget & management fee public hearing. No Board action.

7/29 Minnesota Association of Townships - Call for Resolutions at upcoming District 10 meeting. No Board action.

7/29 Proctor Journal / Pine Knot/ Duluth News Tribune / Cloquet Pine Journal - Affidavit of Publication for Public testing voting machines.

8/1 Minnesota Association of Townships - District 10 Meeting notice Thursday August 25th at Grand Lake Town Hall.

8/11 Menards - Authorized user update form will be filled out and returned to Menards.

8/12 St. Louis County Planning & Zoning - Variance application from Heather and Scott Nylund to change the lot size of their 35-acre parcel to 9-acres. This would allow them to sell a house with 9-acres and keep the remainder of the acreage that is adjacent to property they have. This is moved to New Business.

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

7/13, 7/16, 7/20, 7/23, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10 - Recycling tracking forms sent to WLSSD.

7/10 Minnesota Dept of Employment & Economic Development - Letter of support for broadband in the Township.

7/27 Ehlers & Associates - Cover letter for financing packet.

7/27 Proctor Journal - Minnesota Certificate of Exemption for sales tax.

OUTSTANDING BILLS: a) Treasurer Moe has several additional bills not listed on the Outstanding Bills List.

- Darren Seppala in the amount of \$25 for hall rental deposit refund.
- Jennifer Ziells in the amount of \$25 for hall rental deposit refund.
- Randall Brothers Plumbing in the amount of \$18,520 balance due for installation of mini split air conditioner/heater and air exchanger in the town hall.
- Sinnott Contracting in the amount of \$9,600 for blacktop on the Jerry Road railroad crossing.
- Saint Louis County Public Works in the amount of \$2,021.45 for blacktop repairs on Township roads.
- Emergency Apparatus Maintenance in the amount of \$8,269.47 for pump certifications, safety inspections, pump test and repairs to fire engine #1, engine #6 and tanker #2.
- Solway Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$1,113 for reimbursement paid for light bar removal and installation.

MOTION by Stromlund, 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 \$71,734.42

Citizen request and concerns: a) Karen and Rick Flesvig are present to discuss the condition of Jeffrey Road. The black top on the road is in poor condition and the shoulders drop off steeply into the ditch. The road has been patched previously but not in the past few years. On the corner of Maple Grove and Jeffrey Roads there is a large chunk of gravel gone. It was asked if there was a grant available to repair Township Roads. Chairperson Welsh replied to apply for a grant would need an engineer's report which would cost the Township money with no guarantee of being awarded the grant. One option would be to turn the road back into a gravel Road. Karen Flesvig was in favor of that idea.

Years ago, the gravel pit owner at the end of the Jeffrey Road paved the road making it a 9-ton road for trucks allowing them to haul year round.

The Board is decided to see what the cost would be to turn the Jeffrey Road from Maple Grove to highway #2 back into gravel. The board will speak with the Township road maintenance person Bob Rodda and also Jim Sathers, who owns the pit at the end of the road to see if they have any suggestions. Supervisor Gajewski asked if any ARPA funds could be used for road maintenance. Treasurer Moe will find out and report back.

ROAD:

- a) Calcium chloride has been applied to all Township roads.
- b) There is an entrance culvert that needs replacement on the West Jerry Road. The cost of this culvert will be \$1,300. After discussion, the Board agreed to address this at the next yearly road inspection. Supervisor Gajewski reported that there is a entrance culvert on the Lindrose Road that needs re-setting. This is a 26-foot culvert that will be replaced with a 30-foot culvert and 50 feet of ditching to be done later this year. There have been no complaints from residents on the roads.
- c) The blacktop aprons at the railroad crossing on Jerry Road have been completed
- d) Butch Lund has found a part he needs for the roadside mower at Lulich Implement in Mason Wisconsin. He will work out details with the Treasurer to order this part. **MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to use the Township credit card to purchase the needed part for the roadside mower from Lulich Implement.**

At this point the Board asked Todd from Ehlers and associates to give his presentation for financing a fire truck for the fire department. He reported that they received seven offers for our loan for a fire truck. The best offer was at 2.95% from Castle Rock Bank in Rudolph Minnesota. The loan amount is \$249,000 to be paid in six month increments over 10 years. It is allowable to prepay on this loan. The closing will be on September 1st.

Chairperson Welsh MONTIONED to adopt resolution number 2022-6 providing for the sale of \$249,000 in general obligation certificates of indebtedness series 2022 A including loan agreement. The motion was seconded by Stromlund and carried with all in favor.

At this point the board decided to discuss the Town Clerk position that was under old business on the agenda. The Board reviewed the resume from Tami McGregor. Tami had met earlier with Chairperson Welsh, Treasurer Moe, and Regena Merritt and they recommend hiring Tami McGregor for the position of Town Clerk. **Motion by Welsh, seconded by Gajewski and carried unanimously to appoint Tami McGregor to the position of Town Clerk effective August 23, 2022.** The Board would like the office to be open three days a week. Tami suggested Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00AM to 3:00PM, and Thursday 7:00AM to 1:00PM.

- FIRE:**
- a) The fire truck purchase has already been addressed.
 - b) Emergency Apparatus Maintenance has completed pump certifications, safety inspections, pump testing and repairs to fire engine #1, engine #6 and tanker #2. These trucks have had oil changes and the pumps serviced. Rescue #5 needs a MAS air flow censor. This has been ordered.

- c) The Department has the floor looking good for now, so will table any floor refinishing at this time.
- d) Chief Porter is waiting for a quote from Dusty's body shop in Blaine for repairs to engine #6. Dusty's was referred by EAM who had worked with them previously.
- e) Same as "d"
- f) The Department is thinking about signage on the fire hall. They have contacted Todd Signs and have an estimate but would like to see a proof before making a final decision. The materials would be like the sign on the front of the town hall, but with fire department logo etc. Prices are \$1,000 for a 4x8 size sign. A 16-foot would be \$2,000. Dave at Todd Signs has just returned from vacation today. The Department will be in contact with him next week.
- g) The AED cabinet has arrived, but the Department is waiting for the unit itself before it can be installed at the town hall.
- h) The Board was thinking of replacing the Interior lights at the fire hall with LED lighting. Kerbie Merritt was asked if he would like to do this, but he is not interested. Supervisor Gajewski has talked with Red D Electric and was given a price of \$90 per unit. The Board will table this issue as it is not an urgent matter and see if ARPA funds might be avail for this. The newer lighting bars were exchanged on the trucks so newer trucks have the better light bars. Truck #4 has been moved to Do-bid for selling. When truck is sold, the money will come to township to reimburse for the down payment made by the Township.
- i) LUCUS 3 chest compression device is still on order.
- j) Calls for service have been light. One deadly crash on Hwy194 and Canosia Road. Mostly medical calls and no fires.
- k) The Fire Department had engine #6 at the Duluth Air Show. Department members attending the air show were working the concessions for fund raising. The Department also attended Munger Days and raised \$1,500 over that weekend. The car show had about 40 cars and was most profitable yet. The food that was sold was donated. National Night Out was a great success with a large group of people attending.
- l) Fire Hall staffing update: 13 active members.

Treasurer Moe informed the Board that the money for the fire truck will be wired into the Township's checking account. The Board needs to make authorization for payment of the remaining balance on the truck so Chief Porter can take a check with him when he picks up the truck. **MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to authorize payment for the fire truck after the funds arrive in the Township account. Chief Porter will deliver the check with when he picks up the truck at Jon's Mid America in Rogersville, MO.**

RECYCLING: a) Nothing to report.

- HALL:**
- a) Air exchanger work has been completed except for some of the electrical. Supervisor Gajewski has spoke with Red D Electric to complete the work. Randall Brothers informed Supervisor Gajewski that the air exchanger will run automatically and should be turned on in the fall and turned off in the spring. In the spring and summer, the air conditioners will be working so the air exchanger should not also be running being humidity into the hall.
 - b) Northland Hardwood Refinishing will begin work on the town hall floors tomorrow. Supervisor Gajewski will meet them at the hall to let them in and give him a key that they will leave at the hall when they're finished.
 - c) Leon Forstrom has applied reflective tape to the edge of the steps at the front entrance.

PARK: a) Supervisor Gajewski filled out a park report showing no issues. There was a hornet's nest in the playground area that Leon Forstrom has taken care of.
b) Supervisor Gajewski has an estimate of \$25,000 to replace the message sign next to Highway 2 with an automated sign that would be run from the office. They would use the same sign but replace the message part with an electric insert. Supervisor Gajewski will pursue this.
c) The new lawnmower needed was \$100 more than originally thought. The mower has been purchased.
d) Horst is available to help with grounds maintenance. He will need at least one day notice for work.

CEMETERY: a) Nothing to report

COMMITTEES: a) The Special Events Committee has not met for a National Night Out review. The event this year was one of the best attended.

OLD BUSINESS: a) Town Clerk position has been addressed. The Board would like the office to be open three days per week. Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00AM to 3:00PM and Thursday 7:00AM to 1:00PM.

b) The gravel pit on the corner of Maple Grove and Caribou Lake Roads has new owners. The Clerk's office has sent them a letter informing them of the Aggregate Tax in the Township and an Aggregate tax reporting form. There has been no response. The name of the new owner was obtained from the St. Louis County land explorer map. **MOTION by Stromlund, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to have John Bray pursue the Aggregate Tax with the new owners of the gravel pit on Maple Grove and Caribou Lake Roads.**

NEW BUSINESS: a) St. Louis County has sent a copy of a variance request they received from Heather & Scott Nylund. The applicants are asking to subdivide the existing 35 acre parcel to a 9-acre parcel allowing them to sell the 9 acre parcel and home and keep the remaining 26-acres that adjoin their 40-acre parcel. The Board does not have any issue with this variance. **MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to inform St. Louis County Board of Adjustment that the Solway Town Board is not opposed to the variance request.**

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM