

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, Supervisor Clare Stromlund, Clerk Autumn Marquardt, Deputy Clerk Amy Johnson, Treasurer Cindy Moe, and 6 concerned citizens.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Town Board Meeting of August 17, 2021 as presented.

MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report dated August 31, 2021. Treasurer Moe noted that she has created a new fund in CTAS for the American Rescue Plan funds so that tracking spending will be easier.

**Checking:18496-18541**

Beginning Balance	\$357,022.00	
Receipts	\$105,373.14	
Disbursements	<u>\$-26,241.84</u>	
Ending Balance	\$436,153.30	<b>436,153.30</b>

**Money Market**

Beginning Balance	\$ 109,311.58	
Interest/Deposits	\$4.64	
Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Ending Balance	\$109,316.22	<b><u>\$109,316.22</u></b>

**Total Accounts** **\$545,469.52**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:**

**8/12 St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department** – Proposed Sale of State Tax Forfeited Land. In the past the Board has opted not to purchase any new land. There is a website showing what land is for sale. This is informational for the Board as they are not interested in purchasing any new land.

**8/20 Pipeline Association for Public Awareness** – Letter received announcing that there is a newsletter available for awareness.

**8/24 Minnesota Association of Townships** – Notice of in person training to teach how to apply for the American Rescue Plan funds as well as training for the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The township has already applied for the American Rescue Plan funds and have received half of the payment. The Board is also up to date on the training for the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization.

**9/04 Western Lake Superior Sanitary District** – Schedule for recycling pick up for the 2021-2022 year.

**9/08 Solway Volunteer Fire Department** – Application for the Bingo that will be taking place in October. The County has already signed the application and sent it back for the Board to sign before it gets faxed to the gambling board. The Fire Department is planning on requiring masks at the bingo as well as to implementing safe conditions for the event.

**9/13 Ed Carter** – Article for individuals with disabilities who want to run for office. At the August meeting it was suggested that the Board would review the article that was written and then decide how it would be distributed. The article is aimed for running for a higher office than Town

Board. The Board does not feel that it would be beneficial to place the article in the newsletter. The Board has decided to post the article on the township website for 30 days and to request that Mr. Carter supply contact information for anyone who might have questions or be looking for more information.

### **OUTGOING COORESPONDENCE**

**8/18, 8/25, 9/1, 9/8 WLSSD** – Recycling tracking forms.

**8/23 CenturyLink** – Right of Way permit application for 6002 Wargin Rd.

**8/26 Como Oil and Propane** – Certificate of Exemption. This certificate is for tax purposes to show that Solway Township is a form of Government.

**8/30 St. Louis County Auditor** – Final Town Levy Certification. This was sent in after the August 10<sup>th</sup> continuation of the Annual Meeting where the electors approved the levy.

**OUTSTANDING BILLS: a)** Treasurer Moe has no additional bills not listed on the Outstanding Bills List:

Treasurer Moe noted that the claims that are listed under Minnesota Power should be listed as Lake Country Power instead.

Chairperson Gajewski noted that the claim from Carlson Concrete was for a new culvert for the Jeffrey Rd. Bob Rodda has replaced the culvert and performed ditching. It was noted that Mr. Rodda lowered the Jeffrey Rd. Culvert by 1ft so that it will not be damaged by any snowplows in the future.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to pay all bills as listed on the Outstanding Bills List presented by the Town Treasurer for a total amount of \$15,117.55.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/CONCERNS: a)** Nothing to Report

**ROAD: a)** Chairperson Gajewski notified the Board that when Bob Rodda was grading, his equipment got tangled in the branches of a willow tree on the corner of Jerry and Sandberg Rds. Leon Forstrom and Chairperson Gajewski went out to look at the tree to see if it could be cut down, but it is very close to the power lines. Chairperson Gajewski has contacted Minnesota Power to have them come and see if they can cut the branches so that this does not happen again. Minnesota Power notified him that it could take 6-8 weeks for them to look at the issue.

**b)** The Sandberg Rds. and Wargin Rd. have been graded. The other township roads are in pretty good shape and will most likely be graded in the next couple of weeks.

**c)** Sinnott has filled the holes in the basketball court and the parking lot. They are hoping to finish the crack sealing in one day but the hall and fields are very busy so they may have to do it in two.

**d)** Butch Lund has started cutting the roadsides again. He is cleaning up branches along the roadside and in the ditches at the same time.

**FIRE: a)** Chief Priolo provided a Department report that stated there has been a total of 109 calls YTD: 25 fire, 79 medical, and 5 vehicle accidents. All calls were mutual aid.

**b)** The airline piping in the Fire Hall has not been completed. Chief Priolo stated that he has tried to contact Hietala Heating and Plumbing a few times and has not heard back from them. Caldwell Heating and Cooling is able to do the job right away for the same price. The Board agreed that Chief Priolo can switch companies to get the job done faster.

- c) The Fire Department has hired on 3 new members that have passed the agility test. They also have 2 possibly 3 more individuals interested in joining the department.
- d) Chief Priolo advised the Board that things went well at the Greenwood Fire. The Department got switched to a night shift, so they were able to be back in Solway the following Sunday morning.
- e) Chairperson Gajewski noted that the Solway Volunteer Fire Department had a nice showing in the Hog Head parade.
- f) Veronica Priolo advised that the Department is planning to have a bingo on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chairperson Gajewski questioned what they are going to be doing regarding safety precautions due to Covid. Mrs. Priolo advised that they are going to be requiring masks but that there will not be any capacity restrictions. The Department will be having their business meeting on Thursday and will discuss this further.
- g) Chief Priolo questioned what the Hot Rod Swap Meet was about. Clerk Marquardt explained that they are hoping to have this event at the townhall and want to donate any of the entry proceeds to the fire department. The Board will discuss this under new business.

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

- HALL:**
- a) The Minnesota Association of Townships has suggested that towns use their American Rescue Plan funds to purchase computers, and tvs to make it possible for towns to conduct remote meetings as needed. Treasurer Moe suggested that the Board purchase chromebooks as well as hotspots so that Board Members can attend meetings from home. Treasurer Moe also noted that the funds can be used for a new HVAC system as long as it has an air exchanger with it. Clerk Marquardt suggested to the Board that hand sanitizer stations be purchased to place around the park area for residents to use. There will be more discussion on what these funds will be used for.
  - b) Clerk Marquardt has reached out to Minnesota Power in regard to conducting an energy audit at the town hall. She has not heard back from them yet.
  - c) The sewer has not had any new issues since the new pump was installed.
  - d) The Country Music Show has been going well. Supervisor Stromlund advised that there was a good turn out at the last show and that some patrons were wondering if food would be brought back. The Board feels that food should not be served at this time, but it is ultimately the decision of the Country Music Show.
  - e) Clerk Marquardt requested a change in the office hours from 9-3 to 8:30-2:30 to make it easier for her to pick up her children from school. The days the office are open would not be changing. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Stromlund and carried to adjust the office hours to Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am to 2:30pm.
  - f) There have been a few inquiries into the wage scales for the township. The inquiries are a reaction to rises in wages happening in other places. The last time that this was brought to the Board was in 2019. Chairperson Gajewski noted that there are positions at the township that keep operations going and he believes that this should be considered. Treasurer Moe advised that she believes that other townships pay their employees based on yearly wages. Supervisor Welsh will look into other townships in the area of wages and bring the information back to the next meeting.

- PARK**
- a) Chairperson Gajewski completed the monthly Township Properties Safety Inspection Report and stated that there are no safety issues with the park.
  - b) The John Deere is running good. Greg Bottila advised Chairperson Gajewski that the issue was a timer that turns on/off the glow plugs that was defective and repaired. The invoice for this has not been received yet.

- c) Butch Lund and Leon Forstrom have repainted the dugouts and the benches.
- d) Leon Forstrom advised the Board that he is having issues with the weed-wacker. He will continue to see if he can fix the problem.
- e) Butch Lund advised the Board that he is having issues with the left brake on the roadside mower. The Board agreed to have Greg Bottila take a look at the roadside mower's brake issues.

**CEMETERY:** a) Butch Lund has adjusted a few headstones but they have not been leveled yet.  
b) Chairperson Gajewski noted the dead tree at the cemetery will be replaced in September or October by Grussendorfs.

**COMMITTEES:** a) The Halloween Carnival needs to be discussed as it would be taking place on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00pm. A planning meeting needs to be set up so that they can make decisions on if it will take place and what will need to be done regarding covid precautions. The first planning meeting will take place on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. A second meeting will take place on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to finalize any plans if they decide to go forward with the carnival. Set up for the carnival will take place on Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Information regarding the carnival will be put into the newsletter.

**OLD BUSINESS:** a) Treasurer Moe advised that she does not think that Steve Lacari will be doing the aggregate audit for the township. She will reach out again to verify his decision.  
b) The District 10 meeting went well. Jim Fisher was elected as the Director for the District.  
c) At the August meeting the Board passed a motion to reimburse transportation costs for township officers that wanted to attend the Legal Seminar in Cotton in October. The Board did not include wages in that motion. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to include the reimbursement of wages of any officer that would like to attend the Legal Seminar in Cotton in October.  
d) Clerk Marquardt printed off some of the information that was provided during the Minnesota Association of Townships break out sessions. Chairperson Gajewski noted that there was a presentation from NOAA about weather patterns and insurance costs. There were no print outs for this presentation but the video is online. The NOAA spoke about how Minnesota is one of the most dangerous states weather wise and that the Duluth Flood was one of the most expensive insurance issues in the state. Southern Minnesota has also seen winds that are equivalent to a category 2 hurricane. American Rescue Plan information was also discussed during these meetings. This was discussed under Hall.

**NEW BUSINESS:** a) Phil Rannila has requested to have a swap meet in the town hall parking lot. The Board feels that this is acceptable as the entry costs would be donated to the Fire Department. MOTION by Welsh, seconded by Stromlund and carried unanimously to allow Mr. Rannila to hold the Hot Rod Swap Meet in the town hall parking lot.  
b) Chairperson Gajewski questioned if there was anything that the Board would like to see in the newsletter. The Board decided to put information regarding the appreciation dinner in the newsletter so that people will be aware that it will be coming. The dinner is tentatively scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup>. More information regarding caterers and covid precautions will be brought to the October meeting.  
c) It was suggested at the Minnesota Association of Townships Annual meeting that townships send letters to Legislators regarding two different Senate Files. Senate File 1969 gives residents of a township the right to vote during annexation procedures. Senate File 1949 asks that MNDOT reimburse townships for damages when they have detours that go through township roads. Mary Kiffmeyer requested support on these items. MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to provide letters of support to the office of Mary

Kiffmeyer along with other Representatives and Senators supporting Senate File 1969 and Senate File 1949.

MOTION by Gajewski, seconded by Welsh and carried unanimously to adjourn tonight's meeting with the signing of checks. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.