

MARCH 12, 2013 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2013 annual meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Regena L. Merritt, at the Solway Town Hall at 8:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for township residents who have died this past year. Also present were Treasurer Cindy Moe, Chairperson Scott Welsh and Supervisors Clare R. Stromlund and Ron Gajewski to help answer questions and explain agenda items for tonight's meeting. There were eight citizens present also Ted Peterson representing Proctor School District and Sheriff Deputy's Pat Olson and Ryan Paulson to report on the calls within the Township and to address citizen's concerns.

Clerk Merritt introduced Supervisor Ron Gajewski who then presented the Solway Citizen of the Year Award to Jeff Nelson. Supervisor Gajewski mentioned his work as a firefighter, and giving of his time over the years with Special Events and Fire Department Bingo.

The Clerk then called for nominations for a moderator for tonight's meeting. **A MOTION was made by Valeria Witte, seconded by Clare Stromlund, and carried to name Kareen Nelson as moderator for tonight's meeting.** As there were no other nominations, Kareen Nelson was named moderator for the meeting. The Clerk called for a five-minute recess to go over the Annual Meeting Agenda with Ms. Nelson.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:50PM.

St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Pat Olson was introduced and gave a report on some the calls in Solway Township as follows:

- 8 Assault
- 9 Burglaries
- 6 Criminal damage to property
- 2 Drug incident
- 11 Theft of property (this includes 5 identity or mail theft)

There were a total of 214 calls in Solway Township for 2012. This compares to 215 in 2011.

Officer Olson mentioned that the bulk of the traffic stops are on Highway #2 or Highway #194. Last year there was an increase in burglaries county-wide, but that has dropped some. Sheriff Olson urged residents to call St. Louis County Sheriff's Department if they notice any suspicious activities. Ronald Gajewski asked if Domestic Assault has been a problem in the Township. Deputy Olson stated that of the 8 assaults in 2012, two were domestic. He feels this is not a problem in the Township.

School Board Member Ted Peterson reported for the Proctor Schools, and stated that the School Board is always open for comments and suggestions, and residents may contact any school Board member to discuss any, or any questions. Last year the bond referendum was successful and the last of the building remodeling is underway.

Beginning next year, the School District will begin to offer all day every day Kindergarten.

The entries in the District buildings have been redesigned to be safer, and cameras have been installed everywhere in the schools.

There is no School Resource Office in the schools at the present time, but the Board is putting together a program and will have one back in the school. Sheriff Deputy Pat Olson mentioned he has been a School Resource Officer and he feels it's a great program, and that it is important for youth to have positive interaction with law enforcement.

The moderator asked the electorate to review the minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting. **Valeria Witte MOTIONED to forgo reading out loud the 2012 Annual Minutes seconded by Joan Gajewski and carried. MOTION was made by Joan Gajewski, seconded by Scott Welsh and carried to approve the March 13, 2012 minutes as written and distributed.**

The moderator asked if there were any questions regarding the Cash on Hand Report or the Summary of Receipts and Disbursements. The Moderator asked for a motion to forego reading out loud the Receipts and Disbursements Reports, and to approve the Receipts and Disbursements for 2012. **A MOTION was made by Clare Stromlund, seconded by Joan Gajewski and carried to forego reading out loud the Receipts and Disbursements Report and to approve the 2012 report of Receipts and Disbursements as presented.**

Road Report: The Moderator asked if there were any questions on the Road Report of Receipts and Disbursements. There were no questions or comments. **MOTION by Scott Welsh, seconded by Mary Busch and carried to accept the 2012 Road Report as submitted.**

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Al Mitchell introduced himself and mentioned he has been the Fire Chief since January. The previous Chief Wayne Suliin has retired. Chief Mitchell reported 87 calls for 2012.

New 800 MHz radios arrived in January. These new radios were mandatory and purchased with a grant from St. Louis County.

A Silverado pick-up was donated to the Fire Department from Enbridge Corporation in January. This will serve as a grassfire/extraction rig.

The 911 emergency service now has automatic mutual aid that will help save time in responding to emergencies.

The Volunteer Fire Department responded to a total of 87 calls for assistance in 2012. Of those calls 12 were in-township fire calls, 47 were in-township medical calls, 6 car accidents with injuries within the township, and 22 mutual aid calls to surrounding townships.

Chief Mitchell reminded everyone to clear the snow away from their address signs so they are visible from the road. There were no questions or comments regarding the Fire Department Report or Receipts and Disbursements. **MOTION by Clare Stromlund, seconded by Jeff Nelson and carried to accept the 2012 Fire Report as submitted.** The Fire Department has presented a report of their own to be added to the Annual Meeting Information.

Recycling Report: There were no questions/comments regarding the Recycling Report. **MOTION made by Jeff Nelson, seconded by Leon Forstrom and carried to accept the 2012 Recycling Report as submitted.**

Hall Report: There were no questions/comments regarding the Hall Report of Receipts and Disbursements. **MOTION by, Leon Forstrom, seconded by Valeria Witte and carried to accept the 2012 Hall Report as submitted. MOTION by Jeff Nelson, seconded by Leon Forstrom and carried to keep hall rental rate the same.**

Park Report: The moderator asked if there were any questions on the Park Report of Receipts and Disbursements. There were none. **MOTION by Bonnie Siiro, seconded by Clare Stromlund and carried to approve the 2012 Park Report as submitted.**

The 2012 **Aggregate Report** shows total receipts of \$67,265.88 for Aggregate Tax collected this year. The disbursements total \$36,408.80.

In 2012 \$27,305 of Aggregate Tax was used as property tax relief. The following were disbursements from the Aggregate Tax in 2012

- \$31,000 for repairs to the Munger School Site Garage.
- \$345.00 in legal fees.
- \$5,153.53 to remodel the upstairs bathroom in the Town Hall.
- \$5,835.00 for seal coating and crack filling the Town Hall parking lot.
- \$13,410.00 for Cemetery improvements.
- \$42,799.00 to turn a donated truck into a grassfire fighting rig.

Future projects to use Aggregate Tax money would be to again provide property tax relief.

General Government Fund Report. Presently the Cemetery regulations state that anyone who has resided in Solway Township have a lot available at no charge. The Board asked the electorate if they felt the regulations should state “any township property owner or resident” to include property owners along with township residents. **MOTION by Scott Welsh, seconded by Clare Stromlund and carried to change the cemetery regulations to allow property owners along with township residents to have a cemetery lot available to them.**

MOTION by Valeria Witte, seconded by Cindy Welsh and carried to accept the General Fund Report of Receipts and Disbursements as presented.

Proposed Levy: The moderator asked if there are any questions regarding the proposed levy, hearing none the **Motion was made by Jeff Nelson seconded by Leon Forstrom and carried to approve a levy of \$286,245 for 2014.** The budget amount is \$326,850. In order not to increase the dollar amount from the 2013 levy, the town board will use \$40,605 from the Aggregate Tax Fund as property tax relief to 2014.

The 2014 Levy is as follows:

Road	95,350
Fire	95,000
Recycling	1,500
Hall	23,900
Park	9,500
General	101,600
Total Budget	326,850
Agg Tax	-40,605
Levy	286,245

OTHER BUSINESS Posting and Publishing sites: The moderator asked if there were any questions or changes to the posting and publishing sites. There were none. **MOTION by Ron Gajewski, seconded by Clare Stromlund and carried to keep the same posting and publishing sites.** The posting sites and publishing newspapers will stay the same.

Donations: There are letters from the Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party Committee and The South St. Louis County Fair Board, each asking for a \$100.00 donation. Last year the electorate voted to add \$300.00 to the levy for donations in the amount of \$100 each to Proctor

Chem-Free Grad party, The South St. Louis County Fair, and the Proctor High DECA program. **A MOTION was made by Clare Stromlund, seconded by Valeria Witte and carried to donate \$100 each to the Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party, the South St. Louis County Fair Board and the Proctor DECA program.**

The Town Board would like to hold an appreciation dinner for the Solway Firefighters to include past members and Flamettes. **Motion by Randy Nelson, seconded by Joan Gajewski and carried to hold an appreciation dinner for the Solway firefighters, and to include past members and Flamettes.**

Items from the Floor: At the Annual Meeting in 2012 the electorate was in favor of a National Night Out Celebration. This event was a great success. **MOTION by Clare Stromlund, seconded by Scott Welsh and carried to spend up to \$800 for a National Night Out event.**

A MOTION was made by Jeff Nelson seconded by Leon Forstrom and carried to hold the 2013 Township Election Tuesday March 11, 2014 noon to 8:00 p.m. and the Annual Meeting March 11, 2014 at 8:30 pm.

Head Election Judge Bonnie Siiro announced the results of the election as 29 votes for Ron Gajewski. There were no write-in votes.

A MOTION was made by Ron Gajewski, seconded by Scott Welsh and carried to adjourn our meeting at 9:50 P.M.

The Board of Canvass was held at 10:00 P.M. Present were Chairman Ron Gajewski, Supervisors Clare Stromlund and Scott Welsh who met to certify the election result to show 29 votes for Ron Gajewski. There were no write-in votes.