

# Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2012

## Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 13, 2012 as posted and published. Clare Stromlund ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. Twenty five residents voted unanimously for Clare. Congratulations Clare on your re-election!

The 2013 budget was proposed to the electorate at the 8:30 pm Annual Meeting following the closing of the voting poll. The prepared budget of \$313,550 broke down as follows:

Roads	\$90,750	Hall	\$23,300	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$95,000	Park	\$9,500	General	\$93,500

The Board approved \$27,305 of aggregate revenue to be used toward the budget. The proposed levy of \$286,245 was unanimously approved by the electorate present. This is the fourth consecutive year without a levy increase.

St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Olson reported on "calls" to Solway Township during the past calendar year. They receive on the average one call every four days to deal with a variety of law enforcement issues. From his point of view such a low demand for law enforcement would not warrant a town "police" official.

Deputy Olson would support Solway's hosting a National Night Out as part of the nationwide program. The St. Louis County Sheriff's would be most willing to participate as part of a program for the event. He encourages residents to be aware of strange vehicles in neighborhoods especially during daytime hours when there have been home break-ins.

Among other things, Proctor School Board Member Mr. Ted Peterson shared future planning for proposed construction at Bayview Elementary School. The ageing two story 1918 section facing Vinland Street which contains non handicapped accessible classrooms and unusable bathrooms would be replaced by an addition to house new classrooms and bathrooms as well as much needed additional space.

St. Louis County Commissioner Peg Sweeney updated the residents on county issues and answered questions. Condition of roads, Fire Department radio replacement to meet new 911 requirements and law enforcement concerns were discussed.

Other agenda items discussed were:

- Hall rental fees and regulations – no changes
- Remodeling upstairs bathroom – a few improvements are needed
- Further study for obtaining a generator from the DNR to make the town hall and fire hall emergency shelters in the event of a regional disaster
- Cemetery rules and regulations reviewed – no changes
- Cemetery improvements: a patio area developed around the new flag pole and historical marker, filling the low northern area and planting trees and shrubs to finish this new section
- Continue fire department appreciation dinner
- The electorate approved funds to host a National Night Out hopefully with lots of community participation

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## SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

**Chairperson:** Ron Gajewski

**Supervisors:** Scott Welsh  
and Clare Stromlund

**Clerk:** Regena Merritt

**Treasurer:** Cindy Moe

**Office Hours:** M, T, Th 9-3

**For Hall Rentals call  
729-5134, leave your name,  
number and date wanted.**

**Phone: 218-729-5134**

**Fax: 218-729-5651**

**Township website:  
solwaytownship-MN.gov**

**Email:  
solwayclerk@hotmail.com**

## Annual Township Road Inspection

### April 19

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of township roads on Thursday, April 19th from 8:00 am to noon.

The purpose of the inspection is to determine how much gravel should be applied, condition of ditches and drainage, if brushing is needed, repairs if any, etc.

If you have a special concern on a township road you may report it to the town hall 729-5134 or meet with the Board during the inspection.

## Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting

The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting for Solway Township will be held at Solway Town Hall on Thursday, April 26 at 5:00 pm. Property valuations and classifications determined by the assessor for this year's assessment, which will be the basis of taxes payable next year, shall be reviewed by the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization. The Board shall make such changes and corrections in valuations and classifications as it shall deem proper to achieve equalization within the jurisdiction. Property owners may appear in person, by representative, or send a letter to this meeting requesting a review of the assessment. The local board shall consider the appeal and take appropriate action.

**The law requires that property owners shall first appear before the local board, after which the owner may appeal the property valuation or classification to the County Board of Appeal & Equalization if not satisfied by the decision of the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization.**

## Reminder 55 Alive Refresher Course

The 55 Alive Refresher Course will be held Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 1–4PM at the Solway Town Hall, Highway #2 and Munger Shaw Road. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non members. Pre-registration is necessary. Call 729-7080.

Being current in the 55 Alive Program should entitle you to a discount with your car insurance. Check with your insurance carrier to see if they participate with the program.

## Cemetery Grave Decorations

With spring we like to remember our deceased loved ones by visiting and decorating their gravesites. At Solway Cemetery baskets/flowers are allowed May 1st through September 30th. Baskets should be of standard design not weighing more than 30 lbs. The care and maintenance of the baskets/flowers are the responsibility of the owner. Artificial flowers and decorations in moveable containers are also permitted. No trees, shrubs, plants or flowers are allowed to be planted at the cemetery.

Following the above helps personnel cutting grass and doing other maintenance work while still allowing our grave sites to be attractively decorated. If you would like a copy of the cemetery rules and regulations contact the town office.

## Memorial Day Observance

On May 30, Memorial Day will be observed. Our memorial observance is traditionally held at the Solway Cemetery starting at noon. A non-denominational prayer service is held followed by ceremonies by the Proctor American Legion consisting of laying of a wreath at the Veterans Memorial Cross, 21 gun salute and playing of taps to honor those who served in the United States military.

## Recycling Information

The recycling shed is open Wednesdays 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm and Saturdays 7:00 am to noon. In 2011 the township received a recycling shed operations grant in the amount of \$6,515.52 from WLSSD. This grant covers expenses incurred in 2010.

The total attendance for 2011 was 3,554 an increase of 52 over last year. July was the busiest month with an attendance of 345. The second busiest month was October with an attendance of 322.

During 2012 the Township may host WLSSD electronic waste and household hazardous waste collection days. Watch for further information on dates and times.

## HAM & TURKEY BINGO

Friday, March 30, 2012 at 7:00 pm

30 Total games 15 Cash games

\$2.00 per board donation

\$.25 per board for cash games

## Community Club News...

### Flamettes

We meet the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Come join us. We will be helping the firemen with their Bingo on March 30<sup>th</sup> selling raffle tickets and food. Our Pancake Breakfast will be on April 29 from 8:00 am to noon. We will take off the months of July and August and start our year in September.

### Monday Group

Our Craft Sale will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Call Bonnie at 729-8382 for a table at \$10.00 per table. We meet every Monday, 12:30 to 4:00 pm. We do our own crafts, have a pot luck and conversation. Come and join us and share craft ideas.

### Solway Senior Citizens

We had a very small turnout in January but we had a good time – a short meeting, lasagna lunch and we played Bingo. There hasn't been much business lately but we had a Sloppy Joe lunch and Bingo in February. Things will pick up when the weather gets warmer and the "snowbirds" return.

We celebrated Naomi Guthrie's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in March. Naomi is one of the remaining members of the group that joined in 1973. Come and join us on the third Thursday of the month at the Solway Town Hall at 1:00 pm. Everyone over 55 is welcome.

### Munger Goodfellowship Club

We got together in January, had lunch, a meeting and played Bingo. In February we had our Valentine Secret Pal exchange and drew new names for this year. We started early in March and made butterfly magnets for the luncheon we are hosting in May for the Area Homemakers. We always have an auction in April and November to raise money for our projects. We will be serving lunch at the craft sale in May. Hopefully we can make another craft in June. After the odd winter we have had we are looking forward to spring and summer.

## 2012 Bookmobile Schedule

The Arrowhead Library System continues to operate it's Bookmobile. The Bookmobile comes to Solway every three weeks on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm. You're invited to check out books, DVD's, tapes, etc. They are due back at the time of the next Bookmobile visit.

The Bookmobile is scheduled to visit Solway the following Thursdays during the next several months: April 12, May 3 and 24, June 14, July 5 and 26 and Aug. 16. Look for the Bookmobile in our parking lot.

## Country Music Show News

Bill Peltó and Dick Robison can be found at the town hall by 9:00 am the second Saturday of each month setting up the sound system for the evening music show that starts at 6:00 pm. Entertainers start arriving anytime after lunch to start practicing. They come from as far north as Mountain Iron, Aitkin to the West, our neighboring state of Wisconsin and from all around our area. Bill comes from Hibbing. All of these individuals and couples gather for the common purpose of providing an evening of entertainment for you and me. This takes a lot of dedication on their part.

Prior to the show those interested can bring a food dish and participate in the pot luck at 5:00. The cost is sharing your dish. At 6:00 the music starts for the first half with a break around 7:15-7:30. After a 15 minute intermission, the second half begins ending at 9:15-9:30. If you don't make the Pot Luck, you're welcome to come for any part of the evening. The show is free of an admission, but good will offerings are appreciated for covering the show expenses. None of those involved in putting on the show get any money for their efforts. We certainly appreciate their contributions.

Mark the second Saturday of each month on your calendar for attending this music event.

## Winter Fun Day Wrap Up

A large number of Solway residents, families and friends participated in the activities held Saturday, January 28. Surprise was expressed by some that everything was free including the food and bingo.

The weather finally cooperated a couple days leading up to the event allowing our firefighters to get ice on the skating rink that was enjoyed that day and the following few days before it again melted. We thank the firefighters for their perseverance in making it happen.

We thank the McGregor family for providing the tractor and hay rack for rides; the firefighters who not only flooded our ice rink but ran the bingo as well; the Special Events committee for organizing the event; Paul for the fire wood for the bonfire; and everyone else who made contributions to the success of the day.

We also thank those who attended our Halloween Carnival as profits from that event fund the other Special Events that are held throughout the year.

## Use of Outdoor Facilities

With the promise of Spring we start looking to spend more free time out of doors. The township continues to maintain for your use and enjoyment a number of outdoor recreational facilities. They include our playgrounds, pavilion, basketball and tennis courts, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, baseball and soccer fields.

All of the facilities are free of charge and can be used on a first come first serve basis. Most of them can accommodate more than one group or party at a time. Just bring your personal sports equipment.

The baseball and soccer fields can be scheduled by teams for practices and games by contacting Cookie Saline at 624-9217. Cookie keeps scheduling calendars for all teams that have reserved field times to avoid use conflicts. Groups can have pick up baseball, softball, basketball, football or soccer games anytime the fields are free from team practices or games.

Township personnel attempt to keep these facilities well maintained for your safety and convenience. If you have suggestions for improvements let us know. Please help us keep things clean by picking up and using garbage containers. If you bring a dog to the grounds, please make sure it doesn't bother others by keeping it leashed. Properly wrapped droppings can be put in garbage containers.

## SVFD Annual Report -- 2011

The Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department responded to a total of 76 calls for assistance in 2011. Of those calls 18 were in-township fire calls, 44 were in-township medical calls, 3 car accidents with injuries within the township, and 11 mutual aid calls to surrounding townships. Following is a list of the calls by type:

Structure Fires (Mutual Aid-Outside Township): 6  
 Structure Fires (Within Solway Township): 1  
 Alarm / Smoke / Odor Investigations: 3  
 Vehicle Fires: 1  
 Chimney Fires: 2  
 Brush / Wildland Fires (Within Solway Township): 3  
 Electrical Line Problems (Downed lines/Trees on lines): 4  
 Permit Burns / Fires Outside: 4  
 Vehicle Accidents with injuries: 3  
 Vehicle Accidents with injuries (Mutual Aid-Outside Township): 1  
 Medical Calls (excluding vehicle accidents with injuries): 44  
 Medical Calls (Mutual Aid - Outside Township): 3  
 Missing Person (Mutual Aid-Outside Township): 1  
**Total: 76 calls**

The past year was a very exciting year on the department. We began the year by taking delivery of our new Tanker #2 purchased mostly from a \$200,000 FEMA grant. We spent a lot of our training time learning how to operate our new tanker truck and learning how to use our new hydraulic tools and equipment to improve firefighter and patient safety at car accidents and other rescue type situations. The hydraulic tools and equipment were also awarded from a FEMA grant awarded last year (2010). We ended the year by being notified of a 2005 Chevrolet extended cab pickup truck to be donated to the department from Enbridge Corporation. We took delivery of the truck in early 2012 and are in the process of converting the truck to a grass fire/rescue vehicle. This vehicle replaced a 1985 Army Surplus vehicle from the MN Department of Natural Resources. The department would like to thank Enbridge Corporation and Gordy Jensen who spearheaded the acquisition project.

During the year department personnel also volunteered and took part in many township and community events; plus trying to keep the skating rink in condition for winter use; this proved to be very difficult due to the mild winter we experienced. We apologize for the skating rink not always being in the best condition this past winter.

Department personnel also took part in numerous trainings and completed mandatory annual training for members to remain current on mandated state and OSHA training requirements for personnel. The program works in conjunction with an annual stipend program for firefighters to reimburse them for time spent attending meetings, calls, and trainings. Personnel receive the annual stipend based on completing all annual training requirements.

The department ended 2011 with **20** members and we are continually looking for new members to join the department. We had one member retire, (Tim Bakken); and one member (Mark Ness), resign during the past year. We thank both members for their service and wish them the best in luck. If you live in or near the township and are interested in joining the fire department or learning about the fire department; please contact one of the following members, call the fire hall at 729-6304 and leave a message if we are not in the hall, or come to one of our meetings on a Thursday night. The department meets at the fire hall on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. for training and other activities.

During 2012, we are going to continue researching grants to possibly replace Tanker #3, (1750 gallon water tender). The tanker is wearing out and is in need of replacement.

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Current List of Department members:

Wayne Suliin – Fire Chief / MFR  
 Al Mitchell – Assistant Fire Chief / MFR  
 Jim Johnson – Fire Captain / MFR  
 Jed Wolf – Fire Captain / First Responder  
 Jeff Nelson – Fire Captain / EMT-B / Treasurer  
 Casey Modich – Fire Marshall / MFR / FF Probationary  
 Frank Kermend – Fire Training Officer / FF / MFR  
 Nick Hite – Medical Training Officer / FF / MFR  
 Gordy Jensen – President / FF / MFR  
 Leroy Hanson – Vice President / FF  
 Michelle Haltli – Secretary / FF / MFR  
 Peter Hildre – FF / MFR  
 Josh Hughes – FF / MFR  
 Shawn Monson – FF / MFR  
 Eric Monson – FF / MFR  
 Jeff Keppers – FF / MFR  
 Nick Priolo – FF / MFR  
 Chris Tverberg – FF / MFR  
 Adam Field – FF / MFR  
 Marcus Taylor – Probationary FF  
 William Mulek – Probationary FF

FF = Firefighter

MFR = Medical First Responder

EMT-B = Emergency Medical Technician-Basic

Following are some things that the fire department would like you to consider throughout this next year. We can't help you if we can't find you! Please display your 911-address number. It should be visible from the road both day and night. Also, if you have ordered a sign and have not received it please call the fire hall as we deliver the new signs from Saint Louis County and you may have not been home when we tried to deliver your sign. Consider replacing your old sign that is parallel to the road with the new signs that are perpendicular to the roadway. Signs can be obtained by calling Saint Louis County 9-1-1 Communications Department at 726-2920. There is a small cost that you will have to pay the county for the new sign. We would also like you to consider keeping a list of your current medications and any chronic medical problems you have. This can be kept in a sealed envelope on your refrigerator. This will help us if we are called to assist you and you can't remember specific information or can't communicate with us.

Thank you again for your continued support, without you your fire department would not be able to function!

### **State Fire Wardens-Solway Township**

To obtain a burning permit please contact one of the fire wardens listed below:

Dennis Essig, 6365 Morris Thomas Road, Cloquet, MN, 624-3832

George Hughes, 6995 Morris Thomas Road, Cloquet, MN 879-2724

Duane Rands, 4535 Caribou Lake Road, Duluth, MN 729-8672

John Rogalla, 3699 Sandberg Road, Duluth, MN 628-1429

You may also get a burning permit at the Cloquet Area DNR Office by calling 879-0880, or online at [www.dnr.mn.us](http://www.dnr.mn.us). There is a \$5 charge per calendar year for the online service.

### **Street Lights...**

If you've noticed a street light at one of our intersections being out/going off and on at night, please call the office 729-5134 to report it. We can then get a repair order filed with the responsible power company. Thanks for helping with this.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

Recently Solway Township residents homes have been burglarized during daytime hours. A number of those burglaries occurred on the St. Louis River and Munger Shaw Roads. The St. Louis County Sheriff's Department has made one arrest and the ongoing investigation may result in additional arrests.

Apparently the thieves were watching the homes and when the owners left for even brief periods of time, they'd return home to find they'd been burglarized. We can take a "bite out of crime" by working together to protect our neighborhoods from predators. The following are a few suggestions:

- If you'll be gone on vacation for a period of time
    - Ask family or friends to watch your house
    - Have someone pick up your mail or have it held at the post office.
    - Have someone cut your grass/snow plow your driveway
  - Never leave an answering machine message indicating you're not home or on vacation
  - Watch for unfamiliar individuals or neighbors entering or being around your property
  - Report suspicious behavior to 911
  - Obtaining license plate numbers can be helpful
- Working together we can be tough on criminals.

### **You Have a Place: Solway Town Hall**

Did you know the town hall is available to residents/property owners of the township for your family events? The hall is used for weddings, receptions, funerals, luncheons, birthday parties, graduation parties, family reunions, family gatherings to celebrate Baptisms or Confirmations, rummage sales, craft sales, etc. If you have an upcoming event and your home is too small or you can't trust the weather for an outdoor gathering think "town hall".

Call the Town Hall office 729-5134 for information.

**Town Office**  
**4029 Munger Shaw Road**  
**Cloquet, MN 55720**

**Phone: 218-729-5134**  
**Fax: 218-729-5651**  
**Email: solwayclerk@hotmail.com**

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## *Solway Section Lines*

### **Township Events Calendar**

March 30 ..... SVFD Bingo 7:00 pm  
April 10..... Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
April 12.....Bookmobile 3:00pm  
April 14.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm  
April 26..... Local Board of Appeals 5:00 pm  
April 29..... SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon  
May 3 .....Bookmobile 3:00 pm  
May 5 ..... Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
May 8 ..... Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
May 12.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm  
May 24.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm  
June 9 .....Country Music Show 5:00 pm  
June 12..... Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
June 14.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm  
July 5 .....Bookmobile 3:00 pm  
July 10..... Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
July 26.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm