

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2013

Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 12, 2013 as posted and published. Ron Gajewski ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. Twenty-nine residents voted unanimously for Ron. Congratulations Ron on your re-election!

The 2014 budget was proposed to the electorate at the 8:30 pm Annual Meeting following the closing of the voting poll. The prepared budget of \$326,850 broke down as follows:

Roads	\$95,350	Hall	\$23,900	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$95,000	Park	\$9,500	General	\$101,600

The Board approved \$40,605 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 fifth 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. There is little change in law enforcement needs from last year.

Deputy Olson was enthused with Solway's hosting a National Night Out as part of the nationwide program. The St. Louis County Sheriff's office would be most willing to participate as part of a program for the event. They enjoy opportunities to interact with residents.

Among other things, Proctor School Board member Mr. Ted Peterson shared future building timelines for the 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.

After recent school shootings, they are insuring security measures are built into the new footprint of the school. Security at the Middle School and High School was also discussed. Besides a locked and monitored entry to the complex, talks are underway to re-introduce the School Resource Police Officer position.

Other agenda items discussed were:

- Hall rental fees and regulations – no changes
- Cemetery rules and regulations were reviewed. An advisory vote supported property owners besides residents be granted use of the cemetery. This change was adopted by the Town Board at its meeting March 14, 2013.
- Funds were authorized to continue the Firefighter, Flamettes and town personnel appreciation dinner.
- The electorate also approved funds to host a National Night Out hopefully with increased community participation.
- The electorate also approved \$100 donations to the South St. Louis County Fair, Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party, and the DECA program.

Next year's Annual Meeting and Election will be held March 11, 2014.

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson: Scott Welsh

Supervisors: Ron Gajewski 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

Jeff Nelson—Citizen of the Year

At the Annual Town Meeting on March 12, Jeffrey Nelson was named as Solway Township Citizen of the Year for 2013. Jeff’s nomination recognizes his volunteer contributions not only to Solway Township, but to surrounding communities as well. He generously shares his time and talents for the betterment of others.

The letter of nomination includes the following: Jeff has been a member of the Solway Volunteer Fire Department for approximately nine years; he is a third captain, EMT and treasurer. He checks the fire hall almost daily and keep it in order; does office duties and keeps records up to date; has written grants for funding with success. Jeff attends Emergency Medical Service meetings; attends all Solway Flamette Auxiliary meetings to report Department functions and quote Department’s needs for equipment. Jeff also is a member of the Solway Special Events Committee and helps with the Halloween Carnival, National Night Out and Winter Fun Day.

In his spare time, Jeff plows snow in the community for those in need; volunteers with the Midway EMT’s and volunteers his help with the Lakehead Harvest Reunion Show.

“Anyone that knows Jeff will admit he is ready to volunteer help for any job that comes up.”

Congratulations Jeff and thanks for your many contributions to our community. They are appreciated.

Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting

The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting for Solway Township will be held at Solway Town Hall on Monday May 6th 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.

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From the news media you maybe aware of controversy in the assessment process by some assessors in the St. Louis County—both private and county. After reviewing the information provided from investigations, the state temporarily suspended our private assessor because of irregularities in assessment procedures and findings.

The Township Board met with a County Assessor’s representative at the Feb 12th Town Board Meeting. After negotiating a written agreement of the process that could be implemented to correct errors and omissions that occurred in Solway Township property assessments, the Board voted to have the St. Louis County Assessor’s Office do assessing in Solway Township for the foreseeable future. Any irregularities in assessments should be corrected this calendar year. If you have any questions on your property assessments call the County Assessor’s office at 218-726-2304. A County assessor’s representative will be present at our Local Board of Appeal and Equalization as well.

Street Lights.....

If you’ve noticed a street light at one of our intersections being out or going off and on at night, please call the office 729-5134 to report it. Leave a message of the location if Gena isn’t in at the time. We can then get a repair order filed with the responsible power company, MN Power or Lake Country Power. Thanks for helping with this.

Memorial Day Observance

On May 27th, 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.

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 gravesites to be attractively decorated. If you would like a copy of the cemetery rules and regulations contact the Town Office.

Community Club News...

Flamettes

The Flamettes have given \$2,987.00 to the firemen this past year. Following is a list of the equipment purchased:

- 4 Medical bags for tanker 2, Engine 6, Utility 4 & 7 - \$1,168
- 1 Streamlight traffic control flashlight for 7 - \$115
- 1—2 1/2 " barrel strainer for Utility 7 - \$57
- 1 Glass master glass removal tool for Utility 7 - \$155
- 2 Fire hose nozzles for Utility 7 - \$853
- 1 6" Barrel strainer for Tanker 2 - \$99
- 4 GPS Units for Engine 1, Tanker 2, Utility 4 & 7 - \$396
- 6 GPS Vehicle dashboard mounts for 1,2,4,5,6,7 - \$144

Thanks to all who supported our fund raisers.

We will be having our Pancake Breakfast on April 28th 8AM to noon. Adults \$5, Children \$3, 5 and under free. We will be raffling off baskets again, so come hungry and support our firefighters.

We meet the 1st Monday of the month at 7PM; come and join us.

Monday Bunch

We will be having a Craft Sale on Sat May 4th 9AM to 1PM. Lunch by the Goodfellowship Club. Call 729-8382 for tables. \$10 for a table. We meet every Monday from 12:30 PM to 4PM. Bring your craft and conversation.

Maple Grove 4-H

The Maple Grove 4-H meets the third Monday of the month, weather permitting, at 6PM at the Solway Town Hall. Youth the ages of 9—18 years are welcome to join.

Maple Grove Homemakers

The Maple Grove Homemakers Club enjoyed a lunch with Millie Warren at Edgewood Vista. Millie was 75 on March 16th.

2013 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 4, 25; May 16; June 6, 27; July 18; Aug. 8, 29. Look for the Bookmobile in our parking lot.

Annual Township Road Inspection April 26th

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of township roads on Friday April 26th from 8 AM to noon.

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

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.

St. Louis County Fair in Proctor

The date has been set for July 10th—14th. Here is a list of events that we have scheduled for far:

- Tues - Entry Day in Industrial Building
- Weds - Fair Enduro
- Thurs - Outstanding Senior Program 1PM, The Chmelewski's 2PM—4PM, Amateur Talent Contest 5PM, Lake Superior R/C Club race.
- Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun— Fond du Lac Museum wild Rice Demo, Natural Resources, Birchwood canoe exhibits, gardening group exhibit. Tribal Government of Human Services.
- Fri - Barrel Racing in Horse Arena at noon, Squeek the Clown all afternoon, R/C race on the hill, 5PM to 9PM The Overtones Quartet.
- Sat - Squeek the Clown all afternoon, Crawling and Toddler Race at 3PM, Coin Scramble at 3:30PM, Kids Pedal Tractor Pull at 5PM, R/C race on hill, The band Shack Shakers 5PM to 9PM.
- Sat & Sun = Dance demo of the Native Tribe
- Sun = Stock Car Racing at 5PM.

Thanks to all the sponsors who support the fair with their contributions, we are very grateful. The community is behind us. Get working on your crafts, gardening and baking. See you on Tuesday, Entry Day, July 9th.

Thank you....

Supervisor Ron Gajewski and Clerk Gena Merritt spent many extra hours and commitment to obtain FEMA money for flood damages in our township. Ron and Gena evaluated, photographed and documented flood damages to township roads and property. This process involved numerous telephone calls; travel to meetings with FEMA officials; filing claims and obtaining bids from contractors for repairs.

Our Township officials were complimented by FEMA on their professionalism and excellent work. Thanks to their hard work our township was one of the first to receive damage reimbursement amounting to \$20,000 for the Township.

Submitted by Leon Forstrom

Country Music Show News

Bill Pelto and his helpers can be found at the town hall the morning of 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 26th. The weather was a bit brisk but fun was had by all.

The weather cooperated allowing our firefighters to get ice on the skating rink that was enjoyed that day and following days. We thank the firefighters for making it happen.

\$300 was awarded to Bingo winners in \$10 pots. A couple of dozen sleds of various shapes and styles were won by kids in the free drawing. Those who came reported enjoying the day.

We thank the McGregor/Wargin families 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.

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".

The hall is available to rent by township residents, property owners, fire department members and township employees only.

NO ALCOHOL	First rental	Additional rental
Rent	FREE	\$50
Reservation Fee*	\$25	\$25
Damage Deposit**	\$100	\$100
WITH ALCOHOL	First rental	Additional rental
Rent	FREE	\$50
Cleaning	\$50	\$50
Reservation Fee*	\$25	\$25
Damage Deposit**	\$150	\$150
Security***	\$30 per hour	\$30 per hour

***Reservations Fee** is to hold the date. If the party takes place or is cancelled with 30 days notice, the deposit will be refunded. The deposit will be kept if no party takes place and there has not been 30 days cancellation notice.

****Damage Deposit** is for an event that will have more than 25 people in attendance. This will be refunded after the event if there is no damage to the hall.

*****Security:** one officer is required for every 100 people in attendance at parties where alcohol is served. The township will secure the security people and let the renter know the cost.

The Town Hall is free of charge to Senior Groups, VFD & Auxiliary, Scouts, 4-H, Harvest Reunion, the St. Louis County Fair Board and a number of community organizations.

SWCD Tree/Shrub Sales

A variety of trees and shrubs at affordable prices are available through So. St. Louis County Soil & Water Conservation District. Check online at www.southstlouisswcd.org for information about types and descriptions or call the number listed below for you district for more information. Order deadline is April 12, 2013. Pick-up dates are between May 9 and May 11, 2013. A notification reminder will be sent either via email or postcard but please contact your pick-up location if you do not hear my May 4. Pre-payment in full is required prior to pick-up. Send order forms and payment to: South St. Louis SWCD, 215 North First Ave East, Room 301, Duluth, MN 55802. Contact numbers: Duluth 218-723-4867, Two Harbors 218-834-8370, Grand Marais 218-387-3647.

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 -- 2012

The Solway Township 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.

This past year began with taking delivery of a donated 2005 Chevrolet Silverado Pick-up from the Enbridge Corporation. We hired Stainless and Repair; (company that built our new tanker), to convert the truck to a rescue and grass fire response vehicle which replaced a truck we had on loan from the MN Department of Natural Resources.

Throughout the year we continued to train on new procedures and new equipment. Some of the new equipment we received was 800 MHZ radios due to a communications upgrade throughout St. Louis County. The initial issue of radios were purchased by St. Louis County Communications Department.

During 2012 an automatic mutual aid agreement was joined with our neighboring departments. Surrounding departments are paged and begin responding at the same time as our department which increases initial firefighting capabilities at the beginning of an incident.

The Department currently has 18 members and we are continually looking for new members to join the

department. If you live in or near the township and like helping other people, working on a team, are at least 18 years of age, and interested in joining the fire department, please contact one of the following members, call the fire hall at 729-6304 and leave a message or if we are not in the hall, come to one of our meetings on a Thursday night at 7PM.

Current List of Department members:

Alan Mitchell – Fire Chief / MFR
 Jim Johnson – Assistant Fire Chief / MFR
 Jeff Nelson – Fire Captain / EMT-B / Treasurer
 Nick Priolo – Fire Captain/EMT-B/Medical Training Officer
 Casey Modich – Fire Captain/ MFR
 Chris Tverberg – Fire Marshall / FF / MFR
 William Mulek – Fire Training Officer / FF / MFR
 Gordy Jensen – President / FF / MFR
 Leroy Hanson – Vice President / FF
 Michelle Haltli – Secretary / FF / MFR
 Josh Hughes – FF / MFR
 Shawn Monson – FF / EMT-B
 Eric Monson – FF / EMT-B
 Jeff Keppers – FF / MFR
 Nick Hite – FF / MFR
 Frank Kermend—FF / MFR
 Marcus Taylor – Probationary FF / MFR
 Bob Priolo—Probationary FF

FF = Firefighter

MFR = Medical First Responder

EMT-B = Emergency Medical Technician-Basic

During 2013 we are continuing to research grants to replace Tanker #3, (1750 gallon water tender). The tanker is wearing out and is in need of replacement. A FEMA grant would be the best solution for our taxpayers.

We can't help you if we can't find you! Please display your 911-address 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 St. Louis County 9-1-1 Communications Department at 726-2910. Please keep a list of your medications and medical problems in an envelope on your refrigerator to help us when we come to assist you.

Thank you again for your continued support, without you the 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, 624-3832
 George Hughes 6995 Morris Thomas Road 879-2724
 Duane Rands 4535 Caribou Lake Road 729-8672
 John Rogalla 3699 Sandberg Road 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. There is a \$5 charge per calendar year for the online service.

Town Office
4029 Munger Shaw Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

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

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 665
Duluth, MN

Change Service Requested

Solway Section Lines

Recycling Information

The recycling shed is open Wednesdays 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm and Saturdays 7:00 am to noon. In 2012 the township received a recycling shed operations grant in the amount of \$6,818 from WLSSD. This grant covers expenses incurred in 2011.

The total attendance for 2012 was 3,431. September was the busiest month with an attendance of 350. The second busiest month was December with an attendance of 330. During 2013 the Township may host WLSSD electronic waste and household hazardous waste collection days if they are offered. Watch for further information on dates and times.

Township Events Calendar

April 4.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
April 9.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
April 13.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
April 25.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
April 26.....Road Inspection 8:00 to noon
April 28.....SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon
May 4.....Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
May 6.....Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 5:00 pm
May 11.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
May 14.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
May 16.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
May 27.....Memorial Day Observance cemetery at noon
June 6.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
June 8.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
June 11.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
June 27.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
July 9.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
July 10–14.....So St Louis County Fair at Proctor Fair Grounds