

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2014

Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 11, 2014 as posted and published. Scott Welsh ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. Thirty-two residents voted unanimously for Scott. Congratulations Scott on your re-election!

The 2015 budget was proposed to the electorate at the 8:30 pm Annual Meeting following the closing of the voting poll. The prepared budget of \$311,500 broke down as follows:

Roads	\$96,000	Hall	\$25,500	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$93,000	Park	\$10,000	General	\$85,500

The Board approved \$25,255 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 sixth consecutive year without a levy increase.

St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Peter Olson reported on "calls" to Solway Township during the past calendar year. They receive on the average one call every month to deal with a burglary. There is little change in other types of calls 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 Jim Hanson shared future building timelines for the proposed construction at Bayview Elementary School. Soil condition problems at the construction site have extended the completion date. Because of snow and cold eight days of school need to be made up. Kindergarten round-up is in progress. A hockey arena bonding bill is before the legislature.

Other agenda items discussed were:

- Hall rental fees and regulations – no changes
- Cemetery rules and regulations were reviewed.
- 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.

The electorate approved that funds be used to replace our Solway Volunteer Fire Department rescue truck. The electorate agreed with plans to replace the town hall outside doors with energy efficient units.

Next year's Annual Meeting and Election will be held March 10, 2015.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Citizen of the Year	2
Board of Appeal & Equal	2
Memorial Day Observance	2
Road Inspection	3
Club News	3
Town Hall Rentals	4
Fire Department Report	5

SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson:

Clare R. Stromlund

Supervisors: Ron Gajewski and Scott Welsh

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

Darlene Miller —Citizen of the Year

At the Annual Town Meeting on March 11, Darlene Miller was named as Solway Township Citizen of the Year for 2014. Darlene's nomination recognizes her volunteer contributions to the Solway community. She generously shares her time and talents for the betterment of others.

Darlene's letter of nomination relates the following:

"Darlene, a compassionate, generous woman who cares deeply about her family, friends and community was born and raised in Munger and spent most of her adulthood living in a community she has always loved. Darlene is very deserving of this title due to her many years as a servant of her community, Munger/Solway Township. After 26 years, she is now retired as Daycare Provider who cared for young children from Munger and its surrounding communities including Proctor, Hermantown, Cloquet, and Esko. Many people are very grateful to Darlene for the numerous years she helped raise their children. Darlene served many years volunteering at the Munger School until it was taken down. She is an active participant with the Ladies Aide at Hope Lutheran Church, including bake sales, helping out other seniors in need, and being a person who can always be counted on to help organize events. Darlene is also known to help the community by sitting on committees to plan many events at the Solway Town Hall, including the popular Halloween Carnival, which she has been seen selling raffle tickets and also has been known to suit up in a clown costume for Pick-A-Pocket games! Darlene Miller is also notorious for her baking abilities. She has offered up some of her cookies and bars throughout the year, but she definitely shines at Christmas time! Finally, Darlene Miller is an extremely hard-working, generous, caring person who always has an ear for someone who needs to talk, will serve her community and family, and while doing all this, continues to have a smile on her face! "

We wish to congratulate you Darlene on receiving this award. Thank you for your many contributions to our community. They are deeply 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 5th 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.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization continued:

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.

Homestead Credit Refund

The homeowner's refund is now called the "Homestead Credit Refund" (for homeowners)

You may be eligible for a refund based on your household income and the property taxes paid on your principal place of residence in Minnesota. Generally, household income is your federal adjusted gross income plus most nontaxable income, minus a subtraction if you have dependents, made a contribution to a qualified retirement plan, or if you or your spouse are age 65 or older.

As a renter, your total household income for 2013 must be less than \$57,170.

As a homeowner, you may be eligible for one or both of the following if you owned and lived in your home on January 2, 2014:

Homestead Credit Refund, your total income for 2013 must be less than \$105,500.

Special Property Tax Refund, you must have owned and lived in your house on both Jan 2, 2013, & on Jan 2, 2014; your net property tax must have increased by more than 12 percent for 2013 to 2014 and the increase must be \$100 or more. There is no income limit for the special property tax refund.

For this refund you need to file a M1PR form. Forms and instructions can be found at your local library, post office, or check out the state website: <http://www.revenue.state.mn.us>.

Memorial Day Observance

On May 26th, 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.

Community Club News...

Flamettes

Spring time is here which brings on our Easter Bingo on Friday April 11th at 7PM. Come join the fun.

Our Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday April 27th from 8AM to Noon. Prices are \$5.00 for adults; \$3.00 for Children; 5 and under are free. Come hungry, leave satisfied. There will also be raffles. All proceeds go to the Solway Fire Department.

We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7PM at the Solway Town Hall, except the months of July, August and January. Come join us!

Monday Bunch

Our annual Craft Sale will be on Saturday May 3rd 9AM to 1PM. Tables are \$10; if you'd like to reserve one call 218-729-8382.

We meet each Monday from 12:30 to 4PM to work on our crafts, share ideas and have a potluck luncheon. Come join us, there is always room for more.

Maple Grove 4-H

The Maple Grove 4-H meets the third Monday of the month at 6PM at the Solway town hall. Contact Amy at 729-0503 with any questions.

Solway Senior Citizens

We didn't have a meeting in January. A few people turned out and had soup and sandwiches and headed home right away because of the weather. In February we cancelled because of a storm. Hopefully, we will have a meeting in March with spring supposedly coming. Lets hope there are no snowstorms in April and the meeting can take place as planned.

Come and join us at 1PM the third Thursday of the month for a meeting, lunch, and entertainment or Bingo. We are always looking for new members.

Munger Goodfellowship Club

In February we met at the Black Bear and had our meeting and had our secret pal exchange and donated money to the Bethany Crisis Shelter in Morgan Park. In March we met at Fosters for lunch and then went over to Edgewood Vista to have cake and coffee with Millie Warren for her birthday and played Bingo. We hope to have a meeting in April and in May we go to French River for the Homemakers Recognition Luncheon. In June we may learn how to make scarves using yarn and our fingers.

Lakehead Harvest Reunion

We meet the first Monday at 7:30PM in the basement of the Solway Town Hall. We will be getting our tractor raffle tickets soon. Members will begin planting and spring work in April and May. We are planning on having a corn maze.

Annual Township Road Inspection April 25th

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of township roads on Friday April 25th 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 and signage 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 Fair Board is sponsoring a Flea Market at the Industrial Building on May 10th 8AM to 5PM. This is the same day as the Proctor All City Rummage Sale. You can get a 10' by 10' spot with one table for \$10. Additional tables are \$10 each. Call Mary at 218-348-1453 or Frank at 218-591-6274. Set up on Friday 6PM to 8PM or Saturday morning at 7AM.

The Fair date has been set for July 9th–13th. July 8th is the entry day for the Industrial Building. All the information will be on the Web site www.proctorduluthfair.com soon. Premium books will be out in late May. The Petting Zoo will be back along with the Lumberjacks, and Lorenzo's Amateur Boxing. Chmielewski Fun Time Band will perform on Senior Day. There will be three days of Afie's "World of Robotic Puppets" including "Harold" a four-foot high talking horse making his appearance through out the grounds. Sneaky Pete's lawn mower pull will also appear. There is more entertainment in the works, including radio controlled cars on the hill.

2014 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 3:45PM 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 Thursdays April 17; May 8 & 29; June 19; July 10 & 31; Aug. 21. Look for the Bookmobile in our parking lot.

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.

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 hardy number of Solway residents gathered for our annual winter fun day on January 25th despite the 4 or 5 degree above zero weather. While the free bingo had more attendees than perhaps at other times, the skaters enjoyed our ice rink though their stays in the warming house were more prolonged.

Youngsters still ran to the sliding hill to try their new sleds won at the free drawing. The hay rides were busy with kids and adults alike. The bonfire was a welcome source of warmth to those gathered around for conversation. Smores were made and served in the town hall where the marshmallows and chocolate bars weren't in danger of freezing.

By the end of the day \$300 was given out in \$10 bingo pots; a couple dozen sleds found proud owners; 150 hot dogs and trimming were consumed plus a variety of snacks as well.

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 some of the firewood 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 including the Winter Fun Day.

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***	\$25 per hour - plus mileage	\$25 per hour- plus mileage

***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 & Flamettes, Scouts, 4-H, Harvest Reunion, the St. Louis County Fair Board and a number of community organizations.

SWCD Tree/Shrub Sales

Go to www.southstlouisswcd.org to view the list of trees and shrubs available for purchase this year. Deadline for orders is April 18, 2014.

Reasons for planting trees and shrubs: added value & beauty to your property; soil, water & energy conservation; wildlife and bird support.

If you have open land alongside roadways think about planting living snow fences to prevent snow blowing over the roadway and causing a road hazard. But make sure you are not planting in the road right-of-way.

We now offer an opportunity to split an order with others. Just go to our facebook page to find a Seedling Share buying partner or call 218-723-4867.

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 Terri Jensen 391-6289. Terri 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 -- 2013

The Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department responded to a total of 99 calls for assistance in 2013. Of those calls 14 were in-township fire calls, 57 were in-township medical calls, 8 car accidents with injuries within the township, and 20 mutual aid calls to surrounding townships.

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.

A change that occurred during 2012 was an automatic mutual aid agreement, where two other departments are called along with the department who has the incident. In 2013, we have seen this system work very well for both our community and our neighbors. The faster response times and the additional personnel arriving on scene sooner allow a much safer work environment for everyone involved.

The Department currently has 16 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 mes-

sage 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 – 1st Capt / EMT-B / Treasurer
 Nick Priolo – 2nd Captain/EMT-B
 Bill Mulek—3rd Captain / MFR
 Bob Priolo— FF / MFR / Fire Training Officer
 Casey Modich – FF/ MFR / Medical Training Officer
 Chris Tverberg – Fire Marshall / FF / MFR
 Leroy Hanson – FF / President
 Jeff Keppers – FF / MFR/ Vice President
 Michelle Haltli – Secretary / FF / MFR
 Gordy Jensen – FF / MFR
 Josh Hughes – FF / MFR
 Shawn Monson – FF / EMT-B
 Eric Monson – FF / EMT-B
 Nick Hite – FF / MFR

FF = Firefighter /MFR = Medical First Responder

EMT-B = Emergency Medical Technician-Basic

During 2014, it is our goal to replace our rescue vehicle with a new, easier to drive, multi-purpose unit. The department has spent a considerable amount of time reviewing and discussing the needs of the department and the community to develop specifications for such a vehicle. This vehicle will be used for medical emergencies, vehicle crashes, structure fires, grass fires, search and rescue and many other incidents within the township and as well on mutual aid calls to other communities.

The following are some things 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 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

Solway Volunteer Fire Department
Bingo
Friday April 11, 2014
7:00 PM
Solway Town Hall
25 Total Games—10 Cash games
\$2.00 Donation per board
All cash games are 25 cents per board

Flamettes Pancake Breakfast
Sunday April 27th 8:00 AM to noon
Adults \$5, Children \$3, 5 and under free

Monday Bunch Craft Sale
Saturday May 3rd 9:00 to 1:00 PM

South St. Louis County Fair Board
Flea Market at the Industrial Building
Saturday May 10th 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Township Events Calendar

April 8.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
April 11.....SVFD Bingo 7:00 pm
April 12.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
April 17.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
April 25.....Road Inspection 8:00 am to noon
April 27.....SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon
May 3 Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
May 5.....Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 5:00 pm
May 8Bookmobile 3:00 pm
May 10.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
May 10.....So St. Louis County Fair Board Flea Market 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
May 13.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
May 26.....Memorial Day Observance cemetery at noon
May 29.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
June 10.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
June 14.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
June 19.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
July 8.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
July 9—13.....South St. Louis County Fair

