

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2016

Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 8, 2016 as posted and published. Ron Gajewski ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. Thirty-five residents voted for Ron. One write in vote was cast for Dave Davis. Congratulations Ron on your re-election!

The 2017 budget was proposed to the electorate at the 8:30 pm Annual Meeting following the closing of the voting poll. The prepared budget of \$336,600 broke down as follows:

Roads	\$96,000	Hall	\$28,000	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$102,500	Park	\$13,300	General	\$95,300

The Board approved \$50,355 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 eight consecutive year without a levy increase.

St. Louis County Commissioner Pete Stauber reported the following road projects to be completed in 2016: reclaim and overlay on Munger Shaw Road between Maple Grove and St. Louis River Roads and chip seal Morris Thomas Road between Canosia and Midway Roads.

St. Louis County Deputy Sheriff Jeff Karkkainen reported on "calls" to Solway Township during the past year. There is little change in calls from last year. Deputy Karkkainen feels that we are fortunate to live in a safe community. He spoke of a number of scams that are prevalent in our area (note article page 5).

Proctor School Board member Ted Peterson reported that the high/middle school complex, Bayview and Pike Lake all now have secure entrances. Eighty-five cameras are installed in the high/middle school complex. All school buses have cameras as well. Efforts to obtain a community hockey arena continue. Open enrollment has brought in students from surrounding communities with the biggest influx from Duluth. Our total enrollment continues to grow toward an anticipated 1800 students by 2016-2017 school year.

All Seniors and Grandparents can pick up pass cards to attend all school events free of charge. One can be obtained by calling the Township or School District offices.

Other agenda items discussed were:

- Hall rental fees and regulations – no changes in regulations or rates.
- Cemetery rules and regulations were reviewed—no changes.
- Funds were authorized to continue the Firefighter, Flamettes and town personnel appreciation dinner.
- The electorate again approved funds to host a National Night Out held the first Tuesday evening in August.
- The electorate also approved \$100 donations to the South St. Louis County Fair and Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party.
- Publishing of township notices will continue in the Duluth News-Tribune, Proctor Journal and Cloquet Pine Knot. The Hermantown Star was added.
- Posting sites continue at the town hall, recycling shed, Saginaw Post Office and Saginaw Union Station.

Next year's Annual Meeting and Election will be held March 17, 2017.

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson: Scott Welsh
Supervisors: Ron Gajewski and Clare R. Stromlund

Clerk: Regena Merritt
Deputy Clerk: Terri Jensen
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

Shirley Nylund — Citizen of the Year

At the Annual Town Meeting on March 10, Shirley Nylund was named as Solway Township Citizen of the Year for 2016. Shirley's nomination recognizes her volunteer contributions to the Solway community. She generously shares her time and talents for the betterment of others.

Excerpts from Shirley's nomination letter are as follows:

"Shirley moved into Solway Township fifty years ago. She was employed as a mail carrier over the years. Shirley was dependable and made sure her neighbors had their needs met.

Years ago, she was involved with the local Boy Scout troop, attending meetings and various events. She was also involved with the Munger School PTA. Shirley helped with the Halloween carnival, bake sales, programs and donated her time for the several extra activities.

For close to fifty years, she has belonged to the Solway Flamettes and the Good Fellowship Club. Shirley also belongs to the monthly Munger Birthday Club and has been a member for a number of years.

Shirley has worked at the Fire Department bingos, pancake breakfasts and has donated several items for the various raffles plus attended meetings.

For the Good Fellowship (Homemakers) Club, she attended meetings, including participating in various area homemakers club gatherings. Shirley has worked at the craft sale luncheons. Lately she has been buying the geraniums, planting them and maintained their upkeep out side our town hall.

Besides raising a family, attending numerous sporting events for the children and grandchildren, the time that Shirley has dedicated to the various clubs and events within our township, I believe justifies her deserving of this Award".

We wish to congratulate you Shirley 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 Wednesday May 4th 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.

Property Tax Refund

To qualify for a Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund, you must be a full or part year resident of Minnesota for the year, and can't be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer. Eligibility is also based on your household income and property taxes paid on your principal residence in Minnesota, as outlined below.

RENTERS:

Your household income for 2015 must be less than \$58,490. The maximum refund is \$2,050.

HOMEOWNERS:

You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan 2, 2016. For Regular Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund your household income for 2015 must be less than \$107,930. The maximum refund is \$2,640.

For Special Homestead Credit Refund (for homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund there is no income limit, but the net property tax on your homestead property must have increased by more than 12% from 2015 to 2016. The increase must be at least \$100.

For more information go to the Minnesota Revenue site: www.revenue.state.mn.us.

Culvert permits

Access to private properties off township roads require a township permit for the installation of property entrance culverts. Obtaining a permit requires a \$100 fee of which \$50 is returned to the property owner after the final inspection and the culvert is found to be properly installed.

An initial inspection of the proposed site for installation of the culvert is done with the applicant. At the inspection the length and diameter of the culvert as well as grade and ditching requirements for the installation are determined. The applicant can make arrangements for the installation. After the completion of the installation a final inspection occurs prior to getting the \$50 returned. Please note our office hours when a permit can be picked up. The permit can be mailed as well after receiving the fee.

Memorial Day Observance

On May 30th, 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.

Community Club News...

Flamettes

Another Bingo done, we would like to thank everyone who helped, and came to play and support our Volunteer Fire Department. There was a good crowd, see you in November. Our Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday April 24th from 8AM to noon. We will have our basket give away. All the money goes to the Volunteer Fire Department so come hungry!

Monday Bunch

Craft Sale is coming soon! Saturday May 21st from 9AM to 1PM. For tables call Bonnie at 218-729-8382, we have changed our format. Sales will be the third Saturday in May and the last Saturday in September for our Craft and Rummage Sale. Come join us on Monday's from 12:30 to 4PM. Share your talents or learn some new ones.

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

Come and join us for our meeting the third Thursday of each month at the town hall at 1PM. We have a short meeting, coffee & dessert and maybe bingo or some other entertainment. We are always looking for new members. Dues are only \$5.00 a year. We always have a catered meal for July and Christmas.

Lakehead Harvest Reunion

We meet the first Monday of each month at 7PM downstairs at the Solway Town Hall. Members will begin planting and spring work in April and May.

Community Education Interest?

Because of interest shown by residents at the Annual Meeting, the Town Board is exploring use of the town hall for Community Education programs. A popular program in the past was "55 Alive" to update driving skills to get car insurance discounts.

If you have a potential interest or know of a program that could be beneficial for residents please let us know. We'll be meeting with Community Ed representatives in the near future. We'll list programs that may become available in the next [Section Lines](#).

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. Thank you.

Thank you June Haedt!

June gifted the Township with a new electric "Bingo Blower" machine that can be used for all Bingo events at the Township. The machine is a welcome memorial of June and her late husband Wally.

Annual Township Road Inspection April 29th

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of township roads on Friday April 29th 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 township office at 729-5134 or call the office to arrange a meeting with the Board during the inspection.

St. Louis County Fair in Proctor

We are having a garage sale in the Industrial Building on Saturday May 14th from 8AM to 4PM along with the Proctor All City Garage Sale. A 10' x 10' spot with one table is \$10. Call Bonnie at 218-729-8382 for your spot. Sell crafts, rummage or whatever.

Our Fair Dates are Wed July 6th through Sunday July 10th with July 5th entry day in the Industrial Building. We will be having Sara Mae and the Birklund Boys for Senior Day on Thursday the 7th from 1Pm to 3PM and Todd Eckart Band at 7PM.

- The White Sidewalls on Friday, July 8th at 7PM
- Alf's Robotic Puppets Thursday through Saturday
- Saturday is Toddler and Crawling races, Coin Scrambler and Kids Pedal Tractor Pull.

D.F.A. will be having their horse shows throughout the week along with the 4-H programs.

Check our website for updates www.proctorduluthfair.com.

2015 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 21; May 12; June 2, 23; July 14; Aug. 4, 25. Look for the Bookmobile in our parking lot.

Country Music Show News

Bill Peltó and his helpers can be found at the town hall the afternoon 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 gathered for our annual winter fun day on January 30th. Free bingo was enjoyed by all and the more hardy made use of the above average temperature weather to enjoy outdoor activities. We all watched as our ice rink melted away.

Youngsters 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 enjoyed around the bon fire as well.

By the end of the day \$300 was given out in \$10 bingo pots; twenty sleds found proud owners; 200 + hot dogs and trimmings were consumed plus a variety of snacks as well.

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 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. Fees per calendar year:

	First rental	Additional rental
NO ALCOHOL		
Rent	FREE	\$50
Reservation Fee*	\$25	\$25
Damage Deposit**	\$100	\$100
WITH ALCOHOL		
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 50 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 obtain 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 other 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 on line at www.southstlouisswcd.org for information about types and description or call the number listed below for your district for more information. Order deadline is April 15, 2016. Pick-up dates are between May 12 & May 14, 2016. A notification reminder will be sent either via email or postcard but please contact your pick-up location if you do not hear by May 9. Prepayment 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 Duluth (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 so all teams 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 -- 2015

Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department Responded to 128 calls in 2015, which is up 33 calls from 2014. These included 95 medical and 24 fire calls.

In 2014 the Fire Department truck committee completed an order for our new Rescue 5, which we took delivery of on February 4th 2015. Those attending the August National Night Out had an opportunity to inspect the new truck during the open house. This new apparatus will serve the township for many years to come. We are always looking for new members, so if interested please contact our Fire Hall and leave a message at 218-729-6304.

State Fire Wardens-Solway Township

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

John Rogalla— 3699 Sandberg Road,628-1429
Dennis Essig—6365 Morris Thomas Road,624-3832
George Hughes—6995 Morris Thomas Rd,879-2724
Duane Rands—4535 Caribou Lake Road, 729-8672

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.

Cemetery Regulations

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.

One above ground monument and one ground level marker are allowed at each gravesite to help in maintenance and to create uniformity. Previously installed accessories are grandfathered in, but new ones will not be allowed.

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.

Beware of Scams

Listed are half a dozen scams reported by the Sheriff that are common in our area.

- Sweepstakes—Lottery: you won big money but need to send money to them first to cover money transfer expenses.
- Overpayment—checks: you are due a rebate for an overpayment but the check was made out for too large an amount. You need to send the difference before they'll release the rebate check.
- Grandparents—emergency: supposed relative in emergency, car broke down, stranded, etc, please send money.
- Ransom—bail phone calls: relative in jail, please send bail.
- Computer repair: you get a notice your computer has a virus. They ask for passwords so they can "fix it". Then they get personal information off the computer. They may set up future breakdowns that you would need to pay again to fix.
- IRS phone calls: the IRS never initially calls you. If you have a problem they'll notify you by mail.

Flamettes Pancake Breakfast
Sunday April 24th 8:00 AM to noon
Adults \$5, Children \$3
5 and under free

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
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Permit No. 665
Duluth, MN

Change Service Requested

Solway Section Lines

Township Events Calendar

April 9.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
April 12.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
April 21.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
April 24..... Flamettes/SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon
April 29.....Road Inspection 8:00 am to noon
May 4.....Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 5:00 pm
May 10.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
May 12.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
May 14.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
May 14.....So St. Louis County Fair Board Garage Sale 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
May 21.....Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
May 30.....Memorial Day Observance-Cemetery at noon
June 11.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
June 14.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
June 2 & 23.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
July 6-10.....South St. Louis County Fair
July 12.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm