

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2018

Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 13, 2018 as posted and published. Clare R. Stromlund ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. Twenty-six residents voted for Clare. Congratulations Clare on your re-election!

The 2019 budget was proposed to the electorate at the 8:30 pm Annual Meeting following the closing of the voting poll. The prepared budget of \$341,750 broke down as follows:

Roads	\$93,600	Hall	\$29,900	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$105,500	Park	\$13,850	General	\$97,400

The Board approved \$55,505 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 tenth consecutive year without a levy increase.

Proctor School Board member Larry Shelton reported the football/soccer artificial turf field was completed and in use this past fall. The sports arena structure is nearly completed with second floor running track and community room. The main floor with ice making capability is moving forward. Larry updated us on the latest computer equipment and technologies that are in use. Basically books and paper reports are becoming things of the past.

Other agenda items discussed during the meeting were:

- Hall rental fees and regulations – a great many ideas were shared regarding alcohol rentals.
- Cemetery rules and regulations were reviewed—some clarifications were suggested. The electorate likes our new sign.
- The electorate again approved \$1,000 toward hosting a National Night Out held the first Tuesday evening in August and \$1,000 for an appreciation dinner for current and retired firefighters, Flamettes and township employees.
- The electorate also approved \$100 donations to the South St. Louis County Fair, "Night to Shine" event, and Proctor Chem-Free Grad Party.
- A broadband availability update was given.
- Suggested uses for the Township's share of monies from the Proctor bond referendum were discussed.
- Purchasing a generator to make the town hall self sufficient and available as a shelter during power outages was seen as a good idea.
- The status of the Community Development Block Grant monies for handicapped accessible playground equipment was shared.
- Publishing of township notices will continue in the Duluth News-Tribune, Proctor Journal, Hermantown Star and Cloquet Pine Knot.
- 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 12, 2019.

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson: Ron Gajewski

Supervisors: Clare R. Stromlund 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

Bonnie Siiro — Citizen of the Year

At the Annual Town Meeting on March 13th, Bonnie Siiro was named as Solway Township Citizen of the Year for 2018. Bonnie was nominated for the honor by Sharen VanDen Heuvel who recognized her as always willing to give to whatever cause that needs some help.

Bonnie and her husband Frank moved to Solway Township in 1963 where they raised their family of two boys and two girls.

They along with other residents worked on the construction of the Township baseball and soccer fields and the warming shed that are still used today. They acquired donated materials and help from Ecklund Brothers construction.

Bonnie has worked as a school election judge as long as forty years ago and works as head election judge in Solway Township elections today.

Being a member of the Munger School PTA she along with Yvonne Puhl started the annual garden fair. Currently Bonnie is a member of the "Monday Bunch" and helps put on the annual craft sales. She also is a member of the Flamettes Fire Department Auxiliary and helps with their pancake breakfast, Halloween Dance and serving food at the Fire Department Bingos.

We wish to congratulate you Bonnie on receiving this award. Your name will be added to the Citizen of the Year honor plaque in the town hall in addition to your receiving your personal recognition plaque. Thank you for your many contributions to our Solway Community .

Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting

The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting for Solway Township will be held at Solway Town Hall on Tuesday May 8th at 4:00 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.

Watch for the Community Education Program Brochure coming in the mail the first week in April.

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 2017 must be less than \$59,960 . The maximum refund is \$2,100.

HOMEOWNERS: You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan 2, 2017 and Jan 2, 2018. For Regular Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) 2017 household income must be less than \$110,650. The maximum refund is \$2,710.

For Special Homestead Credit Refund (for homeowners) there is no income limit, but the net property tax on your homestead property must have increased by more than 12% from 2017 to 2018. 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.

Township Road Inspection April 27th

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of Township roads on Fri. April 27th from 8AM 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.

Community Club News...

Flamettes

Our Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday April 29th from 8AM to noon. We will be raffling off one mens and one womens basket of goods. All proceeds go to the Volunteer Fire Department. The cost for the breakfast is \$5.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children and age 5 and under free. This will be our last fundraiser until fall.

Monday Bunch

Our Craft Sale will be on Saturday April 28th from 9 AM to 1 PM. Solway Senior Citizens will be selling lunch and bars. Tables are \$10.00 and there are a few left. Call Bonnie at 218-729-8382 to reserve a table.

Come join us Monday afternoons from 12:30 PM to 4 PM to share your talents with other crafters, or learn what others are doing

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.

Munger Goodfellowship Club

Meet the second Thursday of the month. We are planning our yearly get together with area Homemakers in Floodwood! The Club will be planting flowers at the hall again this year. New members welcome. To join call Shirley at 729-7066 .

Lakehead Harvest Reunion

We meet the first Monday of each month at 7 PM downstairs at the Solway Town Hall. Planting and spring work begins in April and May. This years show will be August 24th, 25th and 26th. New members are always welcome.

Maple Grove 4-H

4-H is for kids who love to learn by doing and want to explore something new!

- 4-H welcomes kids from all backgrounds—city, town or country.
- The 4-H learning by doing approach uses fun projects to teach life skills.
- Projects include photography, plants, art, robotics, food, animals, and much more!
- In 4-H kids have fun learning with the help of parents, volunteers, and older youth 4-H members.
- There are many active clubs in our area with kids of all ages.
- Members have opportunities to participate in 4-H events throughout the year.

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, or the 4-H Coordinator at 218-723-2873.

Home Fire Detection Campaign

Each year, the Red Cross responds to nearly 66,000 disasters, the vast majority of which are home fires. So the Red Cross set a goal to reduce fire-related deaths and injuries in the US by 25% by 2020. By working in partnership with organizations like the Solway First Responders, we can make a difference.

Smoke detectors should be in **each bedroom** and on **every level** of your home. Smoke detectors also have a limited life span. If yours are over 10 years old, they needs to be replaced, even if it has fresh batteries and 'beeps' when you test it.

If your alarms are older than 10 years - replace them!

Manufacture date is on the back of detectors. If yours does not have a date, it is older than 1997.

If a fire starts in your home, you may have just two minutes to escape.

The American Red Cross and the Solway First Responders want to help you, your family and our community be safe. Remember to:

- Test your smoke alarms monthly
- Practice your fire escape plan
- Have a designated place to meet outside of the home if there is a fire

Thank you for your interest in having FREE smoke alarms installed in your home by Solway First Responders. To request the installation of smoke detectors go to: www.getasmokealarm.org or [residents can call 612-460-3674](tel:612-460-3674).

Solway Volunteer Fire Departments notes:

Solway Volunteer Fire Dept members wish to express their thanks to the Solway electorate for approving the proposed levy for supporting their department. They also appreciate your attendance and support of their fund raising efforts.

With recent retirements from the department able bodied men and women are being recruited to take their places. It's helpful if you have firefighting or medical care backgrounds but it is not necessary. Training is available through the department itself. What is necessary is the desire to step forward in providing service to the Solway Community. If interested contact the Solway Fire Dept at 729-6304. Leave a message if no one is in the hall when you call.

Witte Memorial Trail

Many of you have already enjoyed hiking the Witte Memorial Trail last summer and fall. Twelve benches donated by residents have been installed along the trail route. There are plaques on the benches recognizing their memorial contributions.

Additionally six memorial directional signs have been installed at the entrances and intersections of the trails so hikers know their location.

As the trails are designed for walkers and hikers, motor vehicles such as ATV's or snowmobiles are not allowed.

Winter Fun Day Wrap Up

A large number of Solway residents gathered for our annual winter fun day on January 27th. Free bingo was enjoyed by all and the more hardy made use of the ice rink and sliding hill.

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-four sleds found proud owners; 240 hot dogs and trimmings were consumed plus a variety of snacks including Darlene's homemade bars.

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, family 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".

For reservations call the town office at 729-5134.

SWCD Tree/Shrub Sales

Order Deadline: April 13, 2018

Time to order trees and shrubs for reforestation on your land from your local Soil and Water District. Order early for full selection and check the website if ordering after March 1st for availability. Popular items go quickly.

Go to www.southstlouisswcd.org to view the list of trees and shrubs available for purchase and a description of each.

Questions? Our website answers common questions but if still in doubt? Contact our office at 218-723-4867 info@southstlouisswcd.org or check us out on [facebook.com/southstlouisswcd](https://www.facebook.com/southstlouisswcd)

Reasons for planting trees and shrubs: added value to your property, soil and water conservation practices, wildlife and bird habitat, soil erosion prevention, energy conservation and added beauty are just a few.

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.

We now offer an opportunity to split an order with others. Just go to our facebook page to find a Seedling Share buying partner at [Facebook.com/southstlouisswcd](https://www.facebook.com/southstlouisswcd) or call 218-723-4867 for more information.

Recycling Notes

Examples of what we **cannot** accept:

Plastic cups, plates, utensils	Tin foil
Clam-shell produce containers	Plastic wrap
Stryfoam in any form	Gift wrapping
Alkaline batteries	Dog/cat food bags
Food take home containers	Scrap metal

Examples of what we **can** accept:

Glass bottles	Shampoo bottles
Milk & Laundry jugs	Plastic tubs, jars & lids
Newspaper	Peanut butter jars
Tin cans	Cardboard
Yogurt, sour cream tubs	Office paper
Aluminum cans	Plastic bottles

Please wash all your recyclables before bringing them to the recycling center.

Not all "recycling symbols" indicate the item is recyclable at our shed. Some numbers indicate what type of resin was used to make the plastic item. i.e. Stryfoam has a 6 surrounded by chasing arrows. The 6 indicates the Stryfoam is made from polystyrene; not that it is recyclable.

Shed hours: Weds 3-6PM; Sats 7AM - noon.

2017 Bookmobile Schedule

The Arrowhead Library System continues to operate its 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 5, 26; May 17; June 7, 28. Look for the Bookmobile in our parking lot.

Country Music Show Dates:

April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd. Potluck 5PM — Music 6PM.

South St. Louis County Fair in Proctor:

Fair dates are Wed July 11th through Sunday July 15th with Tuesday July 10th as entry day in the Industrial Building. www.proctorduluthfair.com

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, hiking trails, 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 the town office at 729-5134. We keep 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 -- 2017

Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department Responded to 113 calls in 2017. These included 65 medical, 40 fire calls and 8 motor vehicle accidents.

With reduced members on fire departments there is an increase need to use mutual aid for fires and other emergency incidents.

We are always looking for new members, so if interested please contact our Fire Hall and leave a message at 218-729-6304.

Area State Fire Wardens

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 Rd, 879-7194

Donald Gimpel-4387 Midway Rd, 729-6269

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.

Disability Accessibility Improvements

Making your town hall and outdoor facilities accessible to disabled individuals is a priority of the Town Board. We continue to seek improvements such as the replacement of our old and deteriorating ramp. The new one is made of durable maintenance free materials which not only look good, but should last for many years.

Additionally the downstairs entry doors have been replaced by a single wider powered door that should make access much easier while also enhancing the looks of the building.

We are receiving some Community Development Block Grant funds which will be used for playground equipment that is disability accessible. Equipment such as a wheelchair swing, smaller child swing, and diggers, interactive learning panels and wheelchair accessible mats for wheelchairs are being looked at for purchase and installation in our lower playground areas.

Memorial Day Observance

On May 28th, 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.

Flamettes Pancake Breakfast
Sunday April 29th 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

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Solway Section Lines

Township Events Calendar

April 5.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
April 7.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
April 10.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
April 26.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
April 27.....Road Inspection 8:00 am to noon
April 28.....Monday Bunch Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
April 29.....Flamettes/SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon
May 5.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
May 8.....Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 4:00 pm
May 8.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
May 17.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
May 28.....Memorial Day Observance-Cemetery at noon
June 2...Country Music Show 5:00 pm
June 7.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm
June 12.....Town Board Meeting 6:30 pm
June 28.....Bookmobile 3:00 pm