

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2020

Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 10, 2020 as posted and published. Scott Welsh ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. Twenty-four residents voted for Scott. Congratulations Scott on your re-election!

The 2021 budget was proposed to the electorate at the 8:30 pm Annual Meeting following the closing of the voting poll. The prepared budget of \$365,400 broke down as follows:

Roads	\$108,600	Hall	\$34,300	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$109,500	Park	\$13,000	General	\$98,500

The Board approved \$79,155 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 twelfth consecutive year without a levy increase.

Deputy Sherriff Matt Sobczak reported on calls made to Solway Township during the past calendar year. The calls were elevated from previous years. Discussion ensued surrounding whether the Township should return to having a constable as in the late 90's or to contract with St. Louis County Sherriff's Department for additional patrol time for deputies in the Township. The noticeable increase in patrol presence could act as a deterrent to reducing future criminal activities. Its important that the Township is proactive in addressing crime prevention. The Town Board will get additional information on indentifying times and places where criminal activities are more likely to occur; what surrounding townships are experiencing and how they address the issue; what the costs would be in "purchasing" additional patrol coverage from St. Louis County as it could substantially increase the township's levy.

Proctor School Board member Lynn Peterson reported:

- 141 Kindergarteners are enrolled for next year indicating a growth in the district.
- Exploring moving early childhood to Bayview.
- The Proctor school app is the best source of information on school issues.
- Ride 360—GPS tracking of all buses makes their whereabouts known at all times.
- Senior passes are available for sporting events—not playoff games.
- All District schools have secure admittance doors that are monitored.
- Busing students from areas of Duluth—what does this cost the school district? The cost will be checked out.

Other agenda items discussed during the meeting were:

- Hall rental fees and regulations were reviewed. No changes were suggested.
- Cemetery rules and regulations were reviewed. No changes were suggested.
- 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.

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chalrperson: Clare Stromlund

Supervisors:

Scott Welsh and

Ron Gajewski

Clerk: Autumn Marquardt

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

Continuation of Pg. 1

- A Centurylink Broadband availability update was given. It should be available throughout the Township by 2022.
- Publishing of township notices will continue in the Duluth News-Tribune, Proctor Journal, Hermantown Star Cloquet Pine Journal and Cloquet Pine Knot.
- Posting sites continue at the town hall, recycling shed, Saginaw Post Office and Saginaw Union Station.

The 2021 Annual Meeting and Election will be held March 9, 2021.

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 April 7th 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.

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 2019 must be less than \$62,340 . The maximum refund is \$2,150.

HOMEOWNERS: You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan 2, 2019 and Jan 2, 2020. For Regular Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) 2019 household income must be less than \$115,020. The maximum refund is \$2,770.

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 2019 to 2020. 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 24th

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of Township roads on Fri. April 24th 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.

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 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".

If you'd like more of an outdoor party remember our multipurpose building is available where the kids are in close proximity to the playgrounds, basketball courts and fields; that way if it rains on your party you'll still be able to have a dry place for eating, games, etc. The building is reserved the same way as the town hall.

For Reservations call the town office at 729-5134.

Community Club News...

Flamettes

Being a Solway Flamette is being a part of an extended family! Some of our former members include Jessie Hughes, Effie Foucault, Laura McCuskey, Yvonne Puhl, Millie Warren, and Valeria Witte. Our current members include Mary Busch, Shirley Nylund, Barb Mattson, Bonnie Siiro, Clare Stromlund, Lori Johnson, Stacy Stuber, Stacie Oakland, Karen Hildre, Krisi Modich, April Vogel, and Sharen VanDenHuevel. If some or all of these names do not pull on your nostalgic heartstrings, you may not have grown up in Munger. If you did not, we welcome you! If you did grow up here, then I am sure you remember Halloween Carnivals, Garden Fairs, Mrs. Barbie dressing up as Mother Goose, skipping the red step on the way to the lunchroom because it was "bad luck," or have been the lucky recipient of red licorice from Larry Shelton.

More importantly, if you are originally from here or not, I am sure you take great pride in our small community. One of the reasons we can operate as a small community is due to the Solway Volunteer Fire Department. They dedicate time and care to our community and the Solway Flamettes contribute to them. Our auxiliary has eight meetings a year, two Bingos and one pancake breakfast. When Solway township members have a fire, we donate \$50 towards their relief and every year we donate funds to our S.V.F.D. This year one of our donations allowed them to buy a washing machine to clean their equipment without having to use their personal washer, which could be hazardous to their health. We support them, so they can support you: and without your support, we could not survive! So, consider joining the Flamettes, I promise our President Lori's jokes are all out of fun and be sure that Clare will always win the host gift, because he really is that lucky! If you cannot join, please support our Bingos and our pancake breakfast! It is all about having pride of being a part of a small town in Minnesota!

P.S. Our Easter Bingo on March 28th has been canceled due to the COVID-19 social distancing. As of now our pancake breakfast is still on for Sunday, April 26th. If you would like updates, please check our Facebook page Solway Flamettes!

Monday Bunch

Come join us Monday afternoons at the Townhall from 12:30 PM to 4 PM to share your talents with other crafters, or learn what others are doing. Bring your craft project to work on. Typically this time of year we have our spring craft sale. Due to the Covid-19 social distancing, the craft sale is cancelled.

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.

Munger Goodfellowship Club

The club will meet April 9th at 12pm at the Solway Town Hall! We will discuss planting flowers at the Town Hall. We are also planning our trip to Floodwood in May to meet with other homemaker clubs. New members welcome! Call Shirley at 218-729-7066.

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 28th, 29th and 30th. June through October meetings are at the show grounds.

Maple Grove 4-H

4-H is for kids who learn by doing, exploring something new and developing life skills.

- Projects may 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.

The Maple Grove 4-H meets the third Monday of the month at 6PM. Contact Amy at 729-0503 with any questions, or the 4-H Coordinator at 218-723-2873.

A Farmers Market?

The idea was recently presented to have a farmer's market at the town hall in the summer and fall. As the idea was tossed about it was proposed to designate a corner of the parking lot for this purpose. It was further suggested the market could be "open" the same days and times as the recycling shed. This way those coming to drop off recyclables could then browse thru the market as well. Of course everyone would be welcome not just those with recyclables.

Are there some producers and potential consumers out there? We'd like to hear your ideas and some indication if there is even interest in a market. Please e-mail (solwayclerk@hotmail.com) or call the township office to let us know your thoughts. After some feedback we'll let you know what's being decided in the July Section Lines.

Winter Fun Day Wrap Up

Numbers of Solway residents gathered for our annual winter fun day on January 25th. 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 bonfire was a welcome source of warmth to those gathered around for conversation. Smores were made and enjoyed in the town hall.

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 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. Thanks to the Wargin and McGregor families for providing hayrides.

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.

SWCD Tree/Shrub Sales

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 our office at 218-723-4867 for more information.

Country Music Show

CANCELLED in April due to the Coronavirus' social distancing requirements. Watch the town hall sign for information on May and June's shows.

Recycling Notes

Shed hours: Weds 3–6PM; Sats 8AM - 1PM.

When coming to the recycling building check the signs that indicate in which dumpster to drop your items. Horst is always available to answer any questions you may have as well. Also note, WLSSD has contracted with A-1 Disposal for recycling of plastic film. This includes plastic grocery and shopping bags, packaging wrappings and film of any kind. Black garbage bags are not accepted for recycling. Make sure all the plastics are clean and dry. These plastics are placed in A-1 Disposal orange carts in the recycling building.

Please note the following list of what we can and cannot accept.

Examples of what we **cannot** accept:

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

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
Plastic wrap	Shredded paper must be housed in paper bags

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. Styrofoam has a 6 surrounded by chasing arrows. The 6 indicates the Styrofoam is made from polystyrene; not that it is recyclable.

Area State Fire Wardens

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

Dennis Essig-6365 Morris Thomas Road, 940-1966
George Hughes-6995 Morris Thomas Rd, 391-0705

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.

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 that include handicapped accessible equipment, 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 keep these facilities well maintained for your safety and convenience. 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 -- 2019

Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department Responded to 148 calls in 2019. These included 108 medical, 32 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 currently have 14 members.

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

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. Solar lighted decorations are allowed year around. 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 are not allowed. Contact the office for regulations.

Memorial Day Observance

On May 25th, Memorial Day will be observed. Our memorial observance is traditionally held at the Solway Cemetery starting at noon. 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 are followed by a non-denominational prayer service. All Township residents and family of the interned are encouraged to attend.

2020 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 Arrowhead Library System has suspended it's Bookmobile services indefinitely. Check the Solway website for information.

South St. Louis County Fair's 100th year Celebration

Fair Dates July 29th-August 2nd, 2020. There are over 50 events occurring during the course of the fair. See website: proctorduluthfair.com for the tentative schedule. Some of the events are:

- Tues. 28th: entry day, 4H project judging
- Wed. 29th: AM judging, livestock entry, DMC inflatable carnival, pony rides.
- Thurs. 30th: rabbit judging, DFA state qualifying 4H Horse Show, horse petting zoo, knocker ball, Todd Eckart music, Lauralloon Balloon Lady, Lake Superior RC Club Race, Roadkill Band.
- Fri. 31st: goat judging, 4H horse costume contest; music in motion contest; horse fun show; pet show; Beef, sheep, swine and goat judging, monster truck show, Lake Superior Smoking Section Band.
- Sat. 1st: poultry judging, game horse show, 4H Performing Arts, demonstrations and fashion review, foot dart kick ball, 4H food review, toddler crawl, coin scramble, Sweet Freedom Band.
- Sun. 2nd: pleasure horse show, amateur talent contest, bike giveaway, can hole tournament, 4H award ceremony, Wisconsin Stock car racing.

And much, much more!

See you there.

S V F D Bingo
March 28th - 6:00 PM
CANCELLED

Town Office
4029 Munger Shaw Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

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

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Solway Section Lines

Township Events Calendar

March 28.....CANCELLED.....Solway Volunteer Fire Dept. Bingo 6:00pm
April 4.....CANCELLED.....Country Music Show 5:00 pm
April 7 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 4:00pm
April 9POSTPONED.....Bookmobile 3:00pm
April 14..... Town Board Meeting 6:30pm
April 24.....Road Inspection 8:00 am to noon
April 25.....CANCELLED....Monday Bunch Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
April 26.....Flamettes/SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon
April 30.....POSTPONED.....Bookmobile 3:00pm
May 2..... Country Music Show 5:00 pm
May 12 Town Board Meeting 6:30pm
May 21.....Bookmobile 3:00pm
May 25.....Memorial Day Observance-Cemetery at noon
June 6..... Country Music Show 5:00 pm
June 9..... Town Board Meeting 6:30pm
June 11.....Bookmobile 3:00pm