

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2021

Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's Township Election was noon until 8:00 pm on March 9, 2021 as posted and published. Clare R. Stromlund ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position which he has held for a number of years. 14 residents voted for Clare with 1 write in vote for another resident. Congratulations Clare on your re-election!

The annual meeting was convened at 8:30PM. The annual meeting must be held the second Tuesday of March as prescribed by Minnesota Statutes. The Minnesota Association of Townships Legal Department recommended due to Covid-19 directives that the convened meeting then be continued to a later date when the pandemic is hopefully less of a threat to residents gathering together. Therefore a resident made the motion which was seconded and carried to continue the meeting to the second Tuesday in August which is the 10th at 6:30 PM. If Covid continues to be an issue the meeting can be held outside with social distancing to further protect attendees.

The agenda, 2020 receipts and disbursements report, 2020 minutes and individual fund reports were made available for those who voted or came to the convened meeting. They can review the reports and bring questions and comments to the meeting in August when it's continued. If you were not at the townhall on March 9th and would like copies of these reports they can be picked up at the town office during business hours. The proposed budget for 2022 is as follows:

Roads	\$108,600	Hall	\$34,300	Recycling	\$1,500
Fire	\$109,500	Park	\$13,000	General	\$100,100

The total proposed budget is \$367,000 minus aggregate revenue tax relief of \$80,755. The proposed levy is \$286,245. There is no levy increase. The levy has been the same since 2010.

We're looking forward to seeing you on August 10th at 6:30PM for the continuation of the Annual Meeting.

Jim Lindquist Retires

There are milestones in life that mark the passing of time. One of these milestones is retirement. Jim Lindquist is at that point now with his announcement that he is retiring from his work with Solway Township. Jim has contributed his expertise in road maintenance to Solway over the past 42 years beginning in 1978.

During that span of time Jim accomplished thousands of miles of road grading, installation and replacement of dozens of culverts and ditching of hundreds of yards of roadway. Sprinkled throughout his tenure of service were the completion of major road improvements. All of the above helped improve our quality of life in rural St. Louis County.

Over the years Jim has been a good friend and business associate. To say he will be missed is an understatement. How do you thank him for sharing 42 years of his life in serving his neighbors and community? Our hearts are full as we offer a big THANK YOU JIM for a job well done! We wish Jim good health and many enjoyable years of retirement. May he and Elaine be able to continue seeking new horizons in their travels throughout our beautiful country. Thanks again Jim—we wish you the best of what life can bring!

Please join us in honoring Jim at an open house to be held Sunday April 11th from 2-4.

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SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

Chairperson: Ron Gajewski

Supervisors:

Scott Welsh and

Clare R. Stromlund

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

Covid Restriction apply

Township website:
solwaytownship-MN.gov

Email:
solwayclerk@hotmail.com

Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting

As you are aware last years Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting had to be cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic. Concerns that residents had were directed to Sean Worthington County Assessor for the township. If they were unresolved with him, the concerns were then taken to the St. Louis County Board for an Open Book Meeting where they were presented by the residents and then decided by the County Board.

When the township, the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, gives up it's authority to the County Board, it's for a two year period of time. Consequently St. Louis County will hold an Open Book Meeting for Solway residents again this year on 4/13/21 4-5PM. Please call Mr. Worthington for additional information on what to bring and where to appear. 218-726-2304

The Minnesota Association of Townships is representing Minnesota Townships including Solway at the Minnesota Legislature in an attempt to get the law amended so as to allow townships to hold their Local Boards this year and be available to residents once again. It's not hopeful that the Minnesota Legislature will act on this request.

In any case, next year The Solway Local Board of Appeal and Equalization should be back in business to hear your concerns.

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 2020 must be less than \$62,960 . The maximum refund is \$2,210.

HOMEOWNERS: You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan 2, 2020 and Jan 2, 2021. For Regular Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) 2020 household income must be less than \$116,180. The maximum refund is \$2,840.

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 2020 to 2021. The increase must be at least \$100.

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

Anyone 65+ is now eligible for immediate vaccination with St Louis County Public Health, contact us at vaccine scheduling. Email is preferred but if you are not tech savvy please call us:
VaccineScheduling@stlouiscountymn.gov or
 Vaccine Scheduling line 218-726-2623

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 30th

The Town Board will make its annual inspection of Township roads on Fri. April 30th 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

Yes we are back in business!

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". Size of events will be determined by Covid restrictions at the time.

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 in March has been canceled due to the COVID-19 social distancing. As of now our pancake breakfast is still on for Sunday, April 25th. If you would like updates, please check our Facebook page Solway Flamettes!

Monday Bunch

We will have our craft sale Saturday, April 24th from 9AM-1PM. Lunch and a raffle basket (will be provided?) call 729-8382 for tables \$10 each. Masks and social distancing required.

We meet Mondays from 12:30 -4PM at the Solway townhall. Bring your craft and conversation. Masks required.

Solway Senior Citizens to meet April 15th.

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 8th at 12pm at the Solway Town Hall! We will discuss planting flowers at the Town Hall. We are also planning activities for May. 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. During the pandemic we have been using zoom to conduct our meetings. We are hoping to have our show on September 2nd, 3rd and 4th. June through October meetings are held at the show grounds.

4-H Opportunities

Currently there's no 4-H Club in Solway Township as former members grew up and out of the program. If you have a child that would like to be involved in the 4-H experience contact the County 4-H program coordinated by Tim Canines at 218-733-2873.

South St. Louis County Fair

Fair dates : Tuesday July 27th is entry day in the Industrial Building, for creative arts. 1PM-7:30PM.

Wednesday July 28th-Sunday August 1st is fair time. DSM Inflatables will be up and running at 3PM on Wednesday. Wristbands \$10.00 a day, everyday; all day. A more detailed schedule will be in the next newsletter or go to proctorduluthfair.com

"Thank you" 1st Responders

We wish to thank our 1st Responders for being there at times of individual or family emergencies. Under stressful conditions, having the 1st Responders arrive providing not only their helpful expertise for dealing with the crises but also their presence comforts and reassures the one in distress and their loved ones. It means a lot to have someone familiar as a friend or neighbor there to help.

Thanks for being there for us. Your service is deeply appreciated.

Craft Sale
Saturday April 24th
9am-1pm

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
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.

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.

Deputy Clerk being appointed

We currently are without a Deputy Clerk. In order to obtain candidates we have advertised for the position. A number of individuals have responded submitting their resumes for consideration. Selected candidates will be interviewed narrowing the field of those qualified for the position.

By Minnesota Statutes the Clerk of a township has the sole authority to appoint the candidate of their choosing to the Deputy Clerk position. While we're engaged in this process currently, a final selection won't occur before the Section Lines goes to press. Stay tuned for news of who will be the appointed individual.

Country Music Show

CANCELLED due to the Coronavirus' social distancing requirements. Watch the town hall sign for information on when shows will begin again.

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 (bread bags, paper towel bags, etc). Can you stretch a thumb through the film easily? Then it can probably be recycled. Black garbage bags cannot be recycled. Make sure plastic bags are clean and dry; remove receipts. The plastic bags are placed in A-1 Disposal orange carts at 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	oil/lubricant containers
Clam-shell produce containers	Gift wrapping/tin foil
Styrofoam in any form	Dog/cat food bags
Alkaline batteries	Scrap metal
Food take home containers	Mason jars

Examples of what we **can** accept:

Glass bottles & jars	Plastic bottles, tubs, jars
Milk & Laundry jugs	Peanut butter jars
Newspaper	Cardboard (flatten it)
Yogurt, sour cream tubs	Office paper, magazines
Aluminum/tin cans	Cereal and pop boxes
Plastic film	Shredded paper must be housed in paper bags
Shampoo bottles	

Please rinse 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. Remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

With Covid around please sort recyclables at home so they can be quickly dropped off without lingering.

WLSSD NOTE: Got an old microwave? Bring it to WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center for free—because it can't go in the trash! Other major appliances are only \$5 each. More information at wlssd.com or call 218-722-0761.

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 a group or party and still allow for social distancing. Just bring your personal sports equipment.

As Covid directives allow 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.

Please continue to social distance and sanitize your hands often while enjoying the outdoor facilities. This ensures that everyone can stay safe while having fun.

SVFD Annual Report -- 2020

Solway Township Volunteer Fire Department Responded to 132 calls in 2020. These included 93 medical, 29 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 31st, 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. Please wear masks and social distance.

2021 Bookmobile Schedule

The Arrowhead Library System continues to operate it's Bookmobile. The Bookmobile comes to Solway every three weeks on Thursday afternoons at 3:15 PM to 4:15PM. You're invited to check out books, DVD's, tapes, etc. They are due at the time of the next Bookmobile visit.

The next scheduled dates are April 22, May 13, June 3, 24. Solway's website has ongoing information.

Pancake Breakfast
Sunday April 25th 8-12
Tables will be set up to accommodate
social distancing. Masks are required.

SLC Broadband Speed Test

St. Louis County in partnership with the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) is pleased to announce a broadband speed testing initiative. Currently more people are at home per the governor's "Stay at Home" directive. This includes over 30,000 students (K-12) as well as parents required to work from home thus providing the most comprehensive, accurate accumulation of actual broadband speeds ever conducted in the County.

The data collected via a one minute speed test that can be conducted from any device connected to your broadband signal including cell phones will result in statically valid data and mapping. This data enables any locale in St. Louis county to utilize the information for a broadband expansion project and in seeking grant funding from the FCC, USDA or Border to Border state program. RAMS' and St. Louis County commissioners, recognize high speed quality broadband is critical to economic development, education, business and virtual healthcare. RAMS encourages everyone to TAKE THE TEST and SHARE THE LINK <https://expressoptimizer.net/public/>

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 1 Bookmobile 3:15pm
April 13Open Book Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 4:00pm
April 13 Town Board Meeting 6:30pm
April 22 Bookmobile 3:15pm
April 24..... Monday Bunch Craft Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
April 25Flamettes/SVFD Pancake Breakfast 8:00 am to noon
April 30 Road Inspection 8:00 to 12:00pm
May 11 Town Board Meeting 6:30pm
May 13 Bookmobile 3:15pm
May 31..... Memorial Day Observance-Cemetery at noon
June 3..... Bookmobile 3:15pm
June 8..... Town Board Meeting 6:30pm
June 24 Bookmobile 3:15pm