

# Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2024

## Congratulations Clare on Your Retirement!

Clare Stromlund, after 36 years of service on the Solway Town Board as a Supervisor, retired January 16, 2024. In addition to his township responsibilities, he served on the Solway Volunteer Fire Department for 29 years. Imagine the changes he contributed to that have occurred over three and a half decades.

We are having a retirement/recognition reception for Clare on May 11th from 1-4 p.m. Cake and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

We're having a presentation at 2:00 and it would be a good time to bring your own personal stories that you would like to share. Looking forward to the opportunity to congratulate Clare and thank him for his many years of service to our community. See you there!

## Township Election and Annual Meeting

This year's township election was noon until 8:00 p.m. on March 12, 2024 as posted and published. Jeff Keppers was on the ballot running for a 3-year term Township Supervisor position. Jeff had been appointed to the board to serve out Clare Stromlund's term of office. Clare was unable to continue serving due to health issues. Thirty-two residents voted, with Jeff receiving all 32 votes. Congratulations, Jeff, on your election!

The annual meeting was convened at 8:30 p.m. The annual meeting must be held the second Tuesday of March as prescribed by Minnesota Statutes. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Kareen Nelson was nominated as moderator for the meeting, followed by a moment of silence to remember Solway residents that died this past year. We were then able to celebrate Heidi Hanson's nomination as Solway Citizen of the Year for 2024. During a "cake" break, Kareen was orientated to township business to be covered during the meeting.

Sergeant Adam Kleffman and Deputy Scott Dinehart of the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office reported that there are currently no major issues in the township that have not been addressed. Student Resource Officers will be re-introduced into County schools once liability issues have been resolved by the state legislature. Although St. Louis County covers a very large area geographically, it is helpful that there is also assistance from neighboring law enforcement agencies to reduce response times.

Amy Pocrnich, Proctor School Board of Education, shared that the Pike Lake Elementary School, Bay View Elementary School, and Proctor Early Childhood Center have been using an "Outdoor Classrooms" environment for the past couple of years and have found it to be very effective. Jedlicka Middle School Grades 6-8 are showing positive signs of educational improvement across the board. High School Grades 9-12 continue to excel in the classroom as well as in extracurricular activities.

Teachers at the Elementary Schools are working on becoming proficient regarding the science behind a child's ability to be an effective reader. Plans for teachers to receive the training required to meet this new challenge are being contemplated. Positive Behavioral Interventions and supports are designed to create a fun and safe learning environment for all students in Grades Pre K through 8. Career and Technical Education are emphasized and continue. Proctor School District has an enrollment of 1,815 students. Check the District's web page for updates on their Strategic Plan.

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### SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

**Chairperson:**

Ron Gajewski

**Supervisors:**

Scott Welsh

Jeff Keppers

**Clerk: Tami McGregor**

**Deputy Clerk:**

Regena Merritt

**Treasurer: Cindy Moe**

**Office Hours:**

Tues, Wed: 9am-3pm

Thursday 7am-1pm

**Phone: (218) 729-5134**

**Fax: (218) 729-5651**

**Email:**

solwayclerk@hotmail.com

**Hall Rentals:**

**Call (218) 729-5134. Leave your name, number and date wanted.**

**Township website:**

solwaytownship-MN.gov

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were approved, The report of 2023 Receipts and Disbursements was read and accepted. Each of the fund reports: Road, Fire, Recycling, Hall, Park, and General were reviewed and accepted. The levy summary for 2025:

Roads	\$116,000	Hall	\$33,300
Recycling	\$1,500	Fire	\$112,400
Park	\$13,000	General	\$120,600

The total proposed budget is \$396,800, minus aggregate revenue tax relief of \$96,800. The proposed levy is \$300,000. The budget was increased by \$13,600, which is a 3.5 percent increase. This is the first levy increase since 2010. Inflation is affecting the township as well. The electorate unanimously approved the levy.

Other items of business:

- No changes in our hall rental fees and regulations or cemetery rules and regulations, or the publishing designations.
- The Saginaw Union Station was removed as a "posting site."
- Donations of \$100 each were approved for the Proctor Chem-Free High School Grad Party, "Nite to Shine," and the South St. Louis County Fair.
- \$1,500 approved for Firefighters/Flamettes (including retirees) and Township Personnel Appreciation Dinner.
- \$1,000 approved for National Night Out to be held August 6th.
- Broadband availability in the Township was discussed.
- Use of the American Rescue Plan funds was discussed. Some purchases are: Two large capacity mini-split units were installed in the upper level of the Town Hall. A small unit was installed in the office. An air exchanger was installed in the Hall, providing service to both the upstairs and downstairs. Our ThinkSign Electronic Message Center was installed. An audio/visual system with video conferencing capability is installed. More efficient and operable windows were installed. Firefighter gear and upgraded radios were purchased. Recreational courts were re-built, including basketball, tennis and pickleball. New heating system boiler and hot water tank for the hall are being installed.
- Moved and carried to hold the 2025 Election and Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Polls are open noon to 8:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting begins at 8:30 p.m.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

**LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL  
& EQUALIZATION MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 9TH (4-5PM)**

### Heidi Hanson—Citizen of the Year

At the Annual Meeting on March 12th, Heidi Hanson was named as Solway Township Citizen of the Year for 2024. Heidi's nomination recognizes her as an individual who makes a positive difference with her contributions to the Solway community.

Marcie Keppers' nomination letter states, "I would like to nominate Heidi Hanson for Solway Citizen of the Year. Heidi has been an integral part of our events committee. She has volunteered for every event for the last 20 or so years. Heidi clearly cares for our community and is helping in any way she can. Heidi is always looking for ways to make things better and to run more smoothly. Heidi should be our next citizen of the year!"

Heidi continues her involvement with the Flamettes, organizing fund raisers and working with the extended community. She also has a knack for getting others involved in volunteering their time and talents. Congratulations, Heidi, on receiving this award!

Heidi joins 27 other Citizen of the Year recipients who have been honored with this award since its inception in 1992. Heidi's name has been added to the Solway Township Citizen of the Year Honor Plaque on display in the Town Hall. Heidi also received her personal recognition plaque at the Annual Meeting. Thank you, Heidi, for your many contributions to our Solway Community!

### Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting May 9th

This year the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting for Solway Township will once again be held at Solway Town Hall on Thursday, May 9th from 4-5 p.m. Property valuations and classifications determined by the assessor for this year's assessment, which will be the basis for 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.

### Township Road Inspection April 26th

The town board will make its annual inspection of Township roads on Friday, April 26th from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Any concerns regarding township roads may be reported to the township office at (218) 729-5134, or call the office to arrange to meet with the board on the 26th.

## 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 that 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:** You are a Minnesota resident or spent at least 183 days in the state and cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return. Your household income for 2023 must be less than \$73,270.

**HOMEOWNERS:** You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan 2, 2023 and Jan 2, 2024. For Regular Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) 2023 household income must be less than \$135,410.

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 2023 to 2024. The increase must be at least \$100. For more information go to the Minnesota Revenue site: [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us).

## State Hwy. #2 & Munger Shaw Road Intersection Improvements

There are plans to put in turn lanes at the Hwy. #2 and Munger Shaw Road intersection. This project will be similar to the Hwy. #2 and Canosia Road intersection. As Munger Shaw Road is a St. Louis County Road, the county is involved in the planning.

Because of the proximity of the south entrance of the town hall parking lot to the intersection, the state wanted the entrance closed as cars trying to enter the lot from the west could be a hazard to cars trying to make a left turn onto the Munger Shaw Road.

At the final meeting after several proposals were discussed and negotiated, the state agreed to allow our south entrance to remain open, but we would be restricted to right hand turns into the lot from the east and right-hand turns exiting the lot to the west. The driveway will be widened to accommodate a center island directing traffic flow. A new streetlight will illuminate the entrance. Construction will be started this spring and be completed by fall.

**CRAFT SALE**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 27TH**  
**9AM-1PM**

## MN Power HVDC Modernization Project

MN Power continues planning for the replacement of their outdated substation (high voltage direct current) off Morris Thomas Road just east of Solway Road. The new enlarged substation will be located west of the existing location into Solway Township.

There have been informational meetings with a public hearing most recently on March 13th. Administrative Law Judge Jim Mortenson officiated at the hearing and a number of residents and concerned parties asked questions and provided oral comments surrounding the new and expanded project. The comment period extended to March 28th.

If the project is allowed to proceed, 2025 should see construction beginning, with the substation operational by 2028-2030.

## 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 with maintenance and to create uniformity. Previously installed accessories are grandfathered in, but new ones are not allowed. Contact the office at (218) 729-5134 for regulations or to get questions answered.

## Memorial Day Observance

On May 27th, 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 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. Residents and family of the interned are encouraged to attend.

## 2024 Bookmobile Schedule

The Arrowhead Library Bookmobile comes to Solway every three weeks on Thursday afternoons from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. You're invited to check out books, DVDs, tapes, etc. They are due at the time of the next Bookmobile visit.

The next scheduled dates are April 18th, May 9th and 30th, and June 20th. Solway's website has ongoing information.

## Community Club News...

### Flamettes

Being a Solway Flamette is being a part of an extended family! Our current members include Mary Busch, Shirley Nylund, Barb Mattson, Bonnie Siiro, Clare Stromlund, Lori Johnson, Stacy Stuber, Stacie Oakland, Karen Hildre, and Sharen VanDenHeuvel.

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 their efforts.

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 proceeds from our fundraising to the S.V.F.D. We support them so that they can support you! Without your support, we could not survive! So, consider joining the Flamettes.

If you cannot join, please attend our bingos and our pancake breakfast! It is all about having pride in being a part of a small town in Minnesota! Our upcoming events include a pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 21st, from 8 am to noon, spaghetti dinner on October 19th, and bingo on November 16th. If you would like updates, please check our Facebook page Solway Flamettes!

### Monday Bunch

We meet at the town hall every Monday from 12:30-4 p.m. Come join us and share your talents. You don't have to come all the time, just when you can.

We will have our craft sale on Saturday, April 27th from 9 AM-1 PM in the up and downstairs of the town hall. Tables are being filled up and vendors are excited to see you all again. Lunch served. Tables are \$10 each. Call (218)729-8382 for tables. Table fees are given back to the community events, fire department and food shelf.

### Munger Goodfellowship Club

Shirley Nylund and Mary Forstrom are planning on heading up the planting of the flowers at the Town Hall once again this spring. For future planning call Shirley at (218)729-7066.

### Lakehead Harvest Reunion

The winter hayrides were great for the first two weekends with an attendance of about 1,300. Hayrides were closed for the third weekend due to weather and only one-third of the passes were collected. Remaining passes will be honored at either the August show or for the Hayrides in December 2024. Hales Trails and the skating rink were big hits.

Regular meetings are the first Monday of each month at 7 PM. The April meeting will be held at the Solway Town Hall. All other business meetings will be held at the Lakehead Harvest Show Grounds.

### South St. Louis County Fair

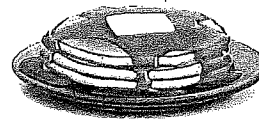
The 2024 fair dates are July 2nd-7th. For more information, you can call the fairgrounds at (218) 628-2401; or see their Facebook page at Proctor Duluth Fair, or visit their Website at proctorduluthfair.com

### Country Music Show

Keith and Sharon Olson and their entourage of singers and musicians continue the music show! Keith and Sharon work hard coordinating activities and musical selections for any given show. Musicians and singers come from surrounding communities, traveling considerable distances to contribute their talent. Let's not take any of their efforts for granted, but extend a big thank you to them for providing an ongoing music venue to Township residents and friends from neighboring communities.

During the coming calendar quarter, the show is scheduled for April 6th, May 4th and June 1st. The show starts at 2 PM and ends at 5 PM. Beverages and snacks are provided.

### FLAMETTES/SVFD PANCAKE BREAKFAST



**SUNDAY, APRIL 21 (8:00-NOON)**

### "Thank you" EMS Responders

We wish to thank our EMS Responders for being there at times of individual or family emergencies. Under stressful conditions, having the EMS 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. Your service is deeply appreciated!

### 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 multi-purpose 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 (218) 729-5134.

## 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 with handicapped accessible equipment, pavilion, hiking trails, basketball and tennis court, volleyball court, horseshoe pits, baseball and soccer fields. WE NOW ALSO HAVE PICKLEBALL COURTS!

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.

The baseball and soccer fields can be scheduled by teams for practices and games by contacting the town office at (218) 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 the garbage.

## Area State Fire Wardens

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

Dennis Essig: (218) 940-1966  
George Hughes: 6995 Morris Thomas Rd, (218) 391-0705  
Donald Gimpel: 4387 Midway Rd. (218) 349-2380

You may also get a burning permit at the Cloquet Area DNR Office by calling (218)878-5640, or online at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us). There is a \$5 (transaction fee) per calendar year for the online service.

## 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.

## Recycling Notes

**Shed hours: Weds 3-6 PM; Sats 8 AM-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), bubble wrap is now accepted. 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
Scrap metal	Mason jars
Food take home containers	

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/bubble wrap	Shredded paper must be housed in paper bags
Shampoo bottles	

AA, AAA and 9 volt batteries are accepted: Please note the special container for batteries.

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

## Neighbors Keep Watch

With summer, vacations start. Kids are out of school and families hit the road for distant horizons. Packing up for a weekend or several weeks, the promise is for an enjoyable and refreshing respite from everyday routine of school and work.

If you're planning on being gone for a period of time, let your neighbors and friends know your plans and ask them to keep an eye on your house while you're gone. They can be aware of strange individuals or vehicles entering or being around your property. They can call 911 and report suspicious behavior and the sheriff can check it out. If you can get a license plate number without jeopardizing yourself, that could be very helpful, as well as the description of the individuals or their car. Working together we can keep our community safe.

**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***

### **Political Contacts**

**U.S. Senators:**  
Amy Klobuchar (202) 224-3244  
Tina Smith (202) 224-5641

**U.S. Representatives:**  
Pete Stauber (202) 225-6211

**MN Governor:**  
Tim Walz (800) 627-3529

**MN Senator:**  
Grant Hauschild (651) 296-1789  
sen.grant.hauschild@senate.mn

**MN Representative:**  
Natalie Zeleznikar (800) 890-5428  
rep.natalie.zeleznikar@house.mn.gov

**County Commissioner:**  
Keith Musolf (218) 726-2450

### **Township Events Calendar**

April 6 ..... Country Music Show 2-5pm  
April 9 ..... Town Board Meeting 6:30pm  
April 18 ..... Bookmobile 3:15pm  
April 21 ..... Solway Fire Pancake Breakfast 8am-12pm  
April 26 ..... Road Inspection 8am-12pm  
April 27 ..... Monday Bunch Craft Sale 9am-1pm  
  
May 4 ..... Country Music Show 2-5pm  
May 9 ..... Bookmobile 3:15pm  
May 9 ..... Local Board of Appeal and Equalization 4-5pm  
May 11 ..... Clare Stromlund Retirement Recognition 1-4 pm  
May 14 ..... Town Board Meeting 6:30pm  
May 27 ..... Memorial Day Observance-Cemetery 12pm  
May 30 ..... Bookmobile 3:15pm  
  
June 1 ..... Country Music Show 2-5pm  
June 11 ..... Town Board Meeting 6:30pm  
June 20 ..... Bookmobile 3:15pm