

Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Solway Town Board wishes each of you and yours a blessed and prosperous New Year! May you enjoy the love of family, support of friends, and an abundance of good health.

2025 Citizen of the Year Award Nomination

Each year we welcome nominations for the Solway Citizen of the Year Award. Criteria for the award include the nominee being a township resident/property owner, 18 years of age or older, and one who has donated considerable time and talent to the betterment of our community as a volunteer.

The winner of the award is honored for his/her contributions at the Township Annual Meeting in March. The recipient receives a personal plaque of recognition. In addition, the winner's name is added to the Hall of Fame Plaque at the town hall which honors all previous winners of the award. Please submit your nominations to the town office by the first of February.

Past recipients of the award are: Axel Carlson 1992, Valeria Witte 1993, Katherine Miller 1994, Kenneth Hayes 1995, Walt Carlson 1996, Winifred Freed 1997, Centennial Committee 1998, Arnie Whiting 1999, Mary Busch 2000, Jim Miller 2001, Betty Everett 2002, Karen and Rick Flesvig 2003, Isabelle Callahan 2006, Wayne Sullin 2008, John Childers 2009, Joan Gajewski 2010, Larry Shelton 2011, Jeff Nelson 2013, Darlene Miller 2014, Kareen Nelson 2015, Shirley Nylund 2016, Marcie Keppers 2017, Bonnie Siiro 2018, Jeff Keppers 2019, Jim Lindquist 2022, Boo Hanson 2023, and Heidi Hanson 2024. Congratulations to all of them!

Annual Meeting & Township Elections March 11, 2025

The Election poll will be open from NOON to 8:00 PM to elect one Supervisor for a three-year term. The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:30 PM to conduct all necessary business as prescribed by law.

Some of the agenda items to be discussed at the Annual Meeting are as follows:

- 2025 Citizen of the Year
- Report of the 2024 Receipts and Disbursements
- Review of Town Hall rental fees and regulations
- Review of Cemetery regulations
- Fire Department Report
- Proposed Budget and Levy for 2026
- Use of the American Rescue Plan funds

In case of bad weather, the Annual Town Meeting and Election will be held at the same time and place on the third Tuesday of March.

Filing for Township Election

Filing for the Township Supervisor position will be held for a two week period beginning December 31, 2024, and will close on January 14, 2025 at 5:00 PM. The filing fee is \$2.00.

Affidavits of Candidacy shall be filed with the Town Clerk at Solway Town Hall, 4029 Munger Shaw Road, Cloquet, MN during this period of time. Township office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and Thursday 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. To file, contact the Town Clerk at (218) 729-5134 to set an appointment. Clerk's office will be open until 5:00 PM on January 14, 2025.

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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

For Hall Rentals, please call

(218) 729-5134, and leave your name, number and date wanted.

Phone: (218) 729-5134

Fax: (218) 729-5651

Township website:

solwaytownship-MN.gov

Email:

solwayclerk@hotmail.com

2024 Accomplishments

Looking to 2025, your Township Board reviews the accomplishments of 2024. Here are some of them:

- WLSSD grant in the amount of \$10,920.41 received for our recycling shed operations
- Completed scheduled road improvements, grading, dust control, roadside mowing, culvert replacement, ditching and brushing
- Hosted the monthly Country Music Show
- Continued maintenance of Town Hall and facilities for residents' use. 402 events were held in the Hall in 2024.
- Hosted National Night Out on August 6th
- Hosted our recognition dinner on November 7th
- Installation of new sound system and video equipment in upstairs and downstairs of hall
- Installed new security cameras at townsite
- Converted to LED lighting: parking lot lights, interior fire hall lights, and interior and exterior town hall lights
- Installed exhaust fan in upstairs kitchen
- Updating fleet of fire trucks
- MnDOT completed the Hwy. #2/Munger Shaw Rd. intersection project, which reconfigured our Hwy. #2 parking lot entrance/exit
- Contracted with True North Goodwill (housed at prior A.J. Landscaping site) for refinishing the wooden benches on our memorial trail
- Installed new heating system boiler and hot water tank in town hall

If you have suggestions for improvements you would like the Town Board to pursue, give us a call or bring your ideas to a board meeting.

Winter Fun Day: "Free for all"

Our Winter Fun Day is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, March, 2nd from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. This FREE event is sponsored by Solway Township's Special Events Committee for all township residents/property owners so remind your friends and neighbors.

Activities planned at the writing of this article include hayrides, sliding, bonfire, bingo, and free food: coffee, hot chocolate, hot dogs, chips, cookies, bars and s'mores. Food is served all afternoon so come for lunch and stay for supper. The Special Events Committee is picking up the tab.

Free Bingo will run from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Each player may play up to four free cards at a time to vie for a \$10 winner's pot.

A Special Events Committee Meeting will be held on February 18th at 6:30 PM to complete planning for the day. New faces and ideas are always welcome so if you'd like to help, please come to the meeting.

Congratulations Horst!!

Horst Blumerich and his wife, Illona, are residents of Solway Township. They own and operate Frosty Ridge Alpacas. If you participate in Solway Township's recycling program, you probably know Horst and Illona, as they've operated that program for the township for a number of years.

However, what you may not know, is that Horst, a citizen of the Country of Germany, has diligently been pursuing his United States of America citizenship. After years of study learning the history, governmental structure, customs and language of the United States of America, he completed his preparation for citizenship.

Horst, on November 25, 2024, took his Oath of Citizenship and is now officially a citizen of the United States of America! What an achievement!

Congratulations, Horst, from your friends at the township. When you see Horst, offer your congratulations as well, as I'm sure he'd appreciate it.

ANNUAL MEETING and TOWN BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Solway Town Hall

Poll opens: 12 Noon—8:00 PM

Annual Meeting: 8:30 PM

To vote absentee, contact the town office (218) 729-5134

Emergency Vehicle Access

In the rural setting of Solway Township where residents enjoy several acres for home sites, the tendency is to build back on the site to allow a buffer area between their house and the frontage road.

Long driveways provide privacy but can also be a safety hazard if they are not able to be accessed by emergency vehicles. We have had fire trucks stuck in driveways and not able to get to the fires.

In order for a driveway to be accessible it must be a minimum of 10 feet wide and free of trees and other obstacles to a minimum height of 12 feet. Fire trucks are large vehicles and need turn around areas in your yards or circular driveways so as not to necessitate trying to back the truck down a long and perhaps winding driveway. Entrance posts, arches, fencing, and other decorative installations along driveways can also be a barrier preventing access. At times, adequate snow removal is also an issue to be addressed.

If you feel you have a problem and would like some suggestions on how to correct it, contact the office and arrangements can be made for a Firefighter to meet with you at your home.

Community Club News...

Monday Bunch

We are meeting on Mondays 12:30–4PM. Come join us and share your talents. Our Craft Sale will be on Sat. April 26, 2025, 9AM–1PM. Call (218) 729-8382 for a table. Thank you all for supporting us!

Lakehead Harvest Reunion

We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7PM at the show grounds on the St. Louis River Road. For more information, visit www.lakeheadharvestshow.com

South St. Louis County Fair-Proctor

2025 Fair Dates: July 1st–6th. Entry day will be July 1st, judging on July 2nd, rodeo on the 3rd, and fireworks show on the 5th. The Stipes Shows carnival will be returning and open from July 3rd–6th. If you have specific questions, please contact Mary Korich, Fair Manager, at (218) 348-1453, or visit their website at proctorduluth-fair.com

Flamettes

The Flamettes meet the first Monday of the month at 5:30PM at the Town Hall, and meetings usually last an hour or less. We are in need of new members. Please consider joining our group today and become part of our fundraising efforts and events. Please stay tuned for any updates through the newsletter or on the township sign. Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming events which include our spring bingo on April 12th and the pancake breakfast on April 27th.

Cub Scout News

Cub Scout activities continue. We will have our meetings and activities as scheduled on every other Tuesday evening between 6:00PM and 7:30PM at the Town Hall.

Cub Scouts are for boys and girls Kindergarten through 5th grade. New members are always welcome. Have fun while learning life skills and making new friends. Call Jenny at (218) 380-8412 for more information and registration.

Recognition Dinner held in 2024

The Solway Electorate at the Annual Meeting in March 2024 authorized the Town Board to host a recognition dinner for our firefighters and their spouse/guest; retired firefighters and their spouse/guest; current and retired Flamettes and their spouse/guest and employees and their spouse/guest. All of these individuals deserve our ongoing thanks and recognition for a job well done in service to the Solway Community. The dinner was held on Nov. 7th.

SUPERVISOR CANDIDATE

FILING PERIOD

DEC. 31, 2024–JAN. 14, 2025

SOLWAY TOWNSHIP RECYCLING SHED

Location: 4029 Munger Shaw Road

Hours: Wednesday 3PM–6PM

Saturday 8AM–1PM

Solway's Cannabis Story

On November 8, 2024, Kevin Gray, St Louis County Administrator, sent notice to Solway Township that St. Louis County was having a public hearing on November 26, 2024 on St. Louis County's draft Cannabis Ordinance #68. The ordinance covers all areas of the county in which St. Louis County exercises planning and zoning authority, which includes Solway Township.

On November 14, 2024, prior to the scheduled public hearing, Solway Township received a call from an individual from the Twin Cities area. This individual and a partner are potentially interested in building a cannabis facility in Solway in the town hall/fire hall area. Solway's commercially zoned property is the strip of land that runs east and west between Highway #2 on the north and Old Hwy. #2 on the south.

The individual said they are looking for 10 acres of land to build a 450' x 420' facility and that they would employ 153 people with 24-hour security. Employees would include sales, security, delivery, public relations, accounting, auditing, human resources and cleaning staff. The site would be within 20-30 minutes of a large city like Duluth and Cloquet. He also said building away from the Cities would allow access to business loans at a lower rate of interest. He stated they would be interested in investing four million dollars per year into local law enforcement.

The partners were invited to our December 10, 2024 board meeting, but declined as they weren't ready to make a presentation, but would contact us when ready to do so.

At the public hearing, it appeared that several County Board members felt cannabis was an issue to be dealt with more in the future. Your Township Board Chairperson shared that we already received the above inquiry and the matter is already at hand.

The County Board passed Ordinance #68 after the public hearing. The ordinance can be found on the St. Louis County website at www.stlouiscountymn.gov (search word: "Cannabis").

If new developments occur, we will have an informational meeting at the town hall to address them. Watch Solway's website at www.solwaytownship-mn.gov and the electronic message center for possible notifications. We will be updating information at regular board meetings as well.

Please help keep Solway clean

During the year considerable time and expense are expended in picking up discarded trash from Township roads and turnarounds at the end of dead end roads. Such refuse is not only unsightly but detracts from someone else's private property. We find anything from appliances, furniture, construction debris, to garbage and animal carcasses. My guess is much of the trash comes from outside the township and is discarded by non Township residents. If you observe someone dumping, take a picture of their license plate, if you can do so safely, and we'll report them to the authorities. When we're aware of the problem, we can be alert to recognize offenders. Thanks for your help with this.

Recycling Information

The Truth About Styrofoam

Styrofoam: In order for a product to be recycled, there has to be a buyer on the other end that wants to make something out of that product. Unfortunately, there is no market for Styrofoam in our area. This means that Styrofoam has to go in the trash. Your best option is to avoid it in the first place whenever possible. For example: use your own coffee mug, choose reusable plates, and pack items in newspaper instead of packing peanuts whenever possible.

Film plastics

Our recycling shed has special containers for film plastics which **ARE** accepted:

- Clean and dry film
- Grocery and retail bags
- Newspaper, bread and produce bags
- Paper product packing wrap
- Pallet and case wrap
- Bubble wrap

Still **NOT** accepted:

- Black plastic bags
- Plastic containers used to market many food products—these may be clam shell in design and are often clear and perforated. They are **NOT ACCEPTED** at this time.
- **Please make sure all recyclables are clean as food scraps and dirt contaminate them.**

Notary Service Available

Your township clerk is a certified public notary and as such can provide this service to our residents. If you'd like to use this free service, stop in during office hours. A call ahead may ensure the clerk isn't out running errands.

Please remember a notary must see you actually sign the document to be notarized. The clerk cannot testify to a signature that was previously signed.

Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship

The Minnesota Association of Townships is a nonprofit corporation representing Minnesota townships while being a voice for its roughly 9,000 officers. It conducts research and educational programs designed to foster efficient and economical town governmental services and acts as a liaison between state government officials to encourage sustained cooperation.

The Minnesota Association of Townships is awarding \$2,000 scholarships for up to five juniors currently attending a Minnesota public, private or parochial high school, or home study program that plan to further their education at a college, university, or vocational school. Applicants must complete an application form and submit it along with a written essay discussing the 2025 topic:

“Fire protection is an important part of public safety that is provided by townships all across Minnesota. There are different ways that fire protection can be provided. **What are the different ways fire protection is provided by townships? How is the cost of fire protection funded by a township and at what meeting is the extent of that cost approved? What challenges are faced by rural fire departments in providing fire protection?”**

Essays must be between 450 and 500 words, and must be typed with double spacing. Applicants should not name themselves, their school, their town or city, or their local officials in the essay. Each essay will be judged by an independent panel based upon originality, knowledge of subject matter in relationship to the conference theme, and supporting statements, as well as correct spelling and punctuation.

Along with the completed application and written essay, students must submit a current high school transcript and a letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or counselor. **All items must be submitted in one envelope and mailed to: Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 267, St. Michael, MN 55376, postmarked by June 1, 2025. Incomplete applications or applications postmarked after June 1, 2025 will not be accepted.**

Winners will be notified in writing in September of 2025 and will be invited to attend the Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Meeting to be held in December 2025 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Scholarship awards will be paid to the appropriate financial aid office upon receipt of verification of enrollment at a college, university or technical school. Applications can be obtained at the MAT website: www.mntownships.org. Helpful tips: utilize the MAT website, ask a township officer, or research at a local library referencing Minnesota townships to make sure the information is relevant.

Seedlings for Sale!

The MN Department of Natural Resources State Forest Nursery is accepting orders for spring 2025 seedlings. This is a great opportunity for landowners to reforest their property to create wildlife habitat, shelterbelts, or a woodland oasis.

Since 1931, the MN DNR's State Forest Nursery has developed techniques to ensure the highest-quality seedling stock. The State Forest Nursery offers 22 species of native bareroot trees and shrubs; however, seedling selection and availability decreases after the first few weeks of sales. Visit the State Forest Nursery seedling ordering webpage (www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/nursery/ordering.html) to view the available species and access the tree seedling order form.

Landowners can receive assistance identifying the trees and shrubs best suited to their property and woodland management goals by visiting www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/nursery/choosing.html.

A minimum order of 300 seedlings is required when purchasing from the State Forest Nursery. You can mix and match different species in bundles of 100 to reach the minimum quantity. Individual species will not be sold in bundles smaller than 100. Seedlings cannot be redistributed, given away, or resold according to Minnesota state statute. Prices vary depending on species, with the price as low as \$250 for 500 seedlings.

Seedlings must be planted within Minnesota. The last day to order seedlings is Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Orders are only accepted through the online request form, but if needed the State Forestry Nursery team is available to assist with the form during work hours at (218) 364-8010. Once you place your order and inventory is checked, availability will be confirmed via email. You will receive a confirmation/invoice within ten business days of submitting your request form.

Landowners interested in planting fewer than 500 seedlings are encouraged to contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District (www.southstlouisswcd.org) to learn if they offer a tree sale program. Some SWCDs also offer planting services.

Bookmobile Schedule

The Bookmobile is still coming every three weeks on Thursday afternoons between 3:15 and 4:15PM. They're in the parking lot for one hour before moving on to their next location. Dates for the 1st quarter of 2025 are January 16th, February 6th and 27th, and March 20th.

Firefighters Needed!

During the last several years it has become more difficult to recruit firefighters. This isn't just a Solway, county or state problem, but actually a national problem. The demands of job, family, and other commitments can become overwhelming. But despite all this we still have the need for firefighters to keep our families and community safe.

We're asking anyone over 18 years of age to consider stepping up to help us with this task. Maybe it could be a New Year's resolution to be a more active and contributing member of the Solway Community. We just need you to call the Fire Hall at (218) 729-6304, the Town Hall at (218) 729-5134, or Chief Brandon Porter at (715) 563-8567 to let us know you're interested. Leave a message if staff aren't in and we'll get back to you. Check out what it entails and see if it fits for you.

Country Music News

Keith and Sharon Olson and their entourage of singers and musicians continue the Country Music Shows at the Town Hall. The shows are the 1st Saturday of the month beginning at 2:00 PM and running until 5:00 PM. Some treats are provided such as coffee, lemonade, cookies, etc. During the first quarter of the New Year, the shows will be held January 4th, February 1st and March 1st.

Street Lights.....

If you've noticed a street light at one of our intersections being out, or going off and on at night, please call the town office at (218) 729-5134 to report it. Thanks for helping with this.

YOUR POLITICAL CONTACTS

US Sen Amy Klobuchar—425 Dirksen Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510; Phone: (202) 224-3244
Mpls., MN Office (888) 224-9043
Virginia, MN Office (218) 741-9690 or (888) 224-9043

US Sen Tina Smith —720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510; Phone: (202) 224-5641
Duluth, MN Office (218) 722-2390

US Rep Pete Stauber—145 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515; Phone: (202) 225-6211
Hermantown, MN Office (218) 481-6396

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz—130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155; (651) 201-3400 or (800) 627-3529

MN Sen Grant Hauschild-95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155; Phone: (651) 296-1789

MN Rep Natalie Zeleznikar-223 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155 (651) 296-2676 or (800) 890-5428

County Commissioner Keith Musolf
Duluth Court House (218) 726-2450

Town Office
4029 Munger Shaw Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

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Fax: (218)729-5651
Email: solwayclerk@hotmail.com

Solway Section Lines

TOWNSHIP EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec 31..... Filing period for Township Election begins
Jan 4..... Country Music Show 2:00-5:00 PM
Jan 14Town Board Meeting 6:30PM
Jan 14 Filing Period for Township Election ends 5PM
Jan 16 Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM
Feb 1 Country Music Show 2:00-5:00 PM
Feb 6 Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM
Feb 11..... Town Board Meeting & Board of Audit 6:30PM
Feb 27 Bookmobile 3:15-4:15 PM
March 1..... Country Music Show 2:00-5:00 PM
March 2..... Winter Fun Day 1:00-5:00 PM
March 11.....Township Election-Noon to 8:00PM
March 11..... Annual Meeting 8:30 PM
March 18.....Town Board Meeting 6:30PM
March 20..... Bookmobile 3:15-4:15PM
April 5 Country Music Show 2:00-5:00 PM