

APRIL 23, 2024
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Emmert, Doug Fehrman, Chris Shonk, Ryan Green and Mechelle Siemer. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Kelly Beem, Will Flautt and Chief Schons.

Guests included the Reading Twp. Trustees Tim Emmert, Jim Emmert and Wes Snider, and Beth Santore.

Mayor started the meeting by discussing the Cemeteries in Somerset and Reading Township. It is the desire to create a Cemetery Board consisting of members from Somerset and Reading Township. Set up similar to the Park Board. Beth Santore is a cemetery historian and Tom shared a report by Beth on the cemeteries. Discussion on a Cemetery Levy for November. Tom spoke with Auditor Householder and a half mill levy would generate approximately \$65,600. And a 1 mill levy would be approximately \$158,100.00. Trustees were thinking of only a .25 mill levy, but if this is going to be a permanent levy, that would not suffice years to come. Kelly created an Ordinance 2-2024 to create the Board. Trustees will review and make changes. Since we need 3 readings on this Ordinance, Eric motioned to approve Ord. 2-2024 First Reading, as a working document with changes, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

SBC Update: The Opening Bids for construction has been pushed back to May 17th.

Erik Petersen said he is still pursuing the EPA Sustainability Workforce Grant.

SBC Invoices: Discussion was held regarding the 4 invoices for the Builders Club. Mechelle motioned to approve the Building Logic Invoice of \$7,000, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye, except Eric with a no vote. The other 3 invoices for the Builders club need more clarification. have Trace attend the next meeting.

POLICE UPDATE: Chief Schons has scheduled a memorial celebration of Chief Slack on June 18th. The flowers will be planted and his plaque will be placed. His family will attend. He received a quote of \$6300.00 from Kessler's to repair cruiser 204. He would like to sell 203 and 205 through GovDeal.com. Currently he is having staffing issues. Gabe Poling is leaving the department, and Sgt. Love is still on medical leave till May 26th. When Sgt. Love returns, he will work Wed. – Sat. 2pm to midnight, and Chief Schons will work dayshift. Chief talked to Will Flautt, and he has a shredding company coming in to shred unneeded documents.

FARM BIDS: We received 2 bids for the lease of the farm land. Eric motioned to approve Coleman Snider the lease for \$4,000.00. Mechelle Seconded his motion. All voted Aye.

Since we are on the topic of the Callahan property, Tom asked council if they would like to have the house and garage rented for a year? Eric motioned to approve renting the house for \$1500.00, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye. This would be a yearly lease agreement.

Erik Petersen asked to allow him a workshop at the barn, to build a tiny house and have classes. This would be a building camp this summer. It will need to be worked out with Coleman Snider as well.

MINUTES: The minutes from April 9, 2024 were reviewed. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye except Doug abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

St. Joe's Lake: We have \$39,825.65 in grant money to use before October. The kayak ramp is roughly \$27,000, plus an additional 5-6,000 for concrete. Erik Petersen is working with Buckeye Hills for trails. The total cost for tools, classes, etc would be roughly \$3463.00 We also could keep \$2,500 for a 2-3 year maintenance contract with them. The Village will need about \$10,000 match, which can be provided via HAPCAP labor, in kind. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

WIN Waste trash contract: They have offered to extend our contract 1 more year with no increase. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

Capital Grants: Tom is pursuing grants from the Ohio Senate for the Fire Station. The total project cost is \$2,700,000. And they are asking for \$1,800,000. He is also pursuing the Ohio Senate for the Somerset Downtown Revitalization Project. Total project cost is \$2,000,000. This funding will support cost share with local building owners to renovate their National Register of Historic Places Commercial properties. He has 18 buildings to pegged to participate.

Credit Card Increase: Kelly informed council the need to increase the credit card limit. It is now \$3,500. And she would like to have it increased to \$8,000-\$10,000 if possible. Doug motioned to approve the increase to \$10,000, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

Mayor, Council, and BPA Salary Increases: Mayor explained that they cannot vote to give themselves a raise. It will have to wait till the next upcoming elections for Council and BPA and must be voted before the election. Then the newly elected officers will get the increase, and the others will have to wait till they are elected again.

Trees on Pig Foot Square: Chris stated that both trees really need to come down. He got a quote from Zach Reichley for the second tree of \$1,500.00. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

PAY ORDINANCE 7-2024: Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Zoning Inspector: Kelly informed council that Jay Holwick will be moving out of state within a few months, and that we need to find a new Inspector.

With no further business to discuss, Mechelle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

President Eric Emmert

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem