

APRIL 25, 2023
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Members present: Mechelle Siemer, Eric Emmert, Ryan Green, Bill Mohler and Chris Shonk. Also attending were Mayor Johnson, Kelly Beem, Will Flautt and Chief Schons.

Tom opened the meeting with Kyle Lucas and Kathryn from Environmental Design Group. They spoke about the Masterplan for the former 80-acre Callahan property the Village recently acquired. They are hired and paid by Ohio Department of Development for Economic development. The HB 377 funding source is for Infrastructure, Healthcare and Workforce developments.

Ryan Green and Andrea Cullinan reported they had the Horticulture's clean up day. They cleaned the flower pots and picked up trash.

MINUTES: The minutes from April 11, 2023 was reviewed. Eric mentioned a small typo but motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

POLICE CHIEF SCHONS: Chief Schons handed out his call list for the 2 weeks. Sgt. Love completed the SWAT School and did very well. Nash Imaging cannot make the Police Department signs, but gave the designs to Chief. He is contacting other Sign Businesses to make and hang the signs. Eric motioned to approve purchasing new signs, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

Chief called on Kevin Howell from the Chamber of Commerce to speak regarding the Car Show. Kevin would love to have the car show on the square, but understands the traffic control. Decision was made to close off the east side of the square and down W. Main St. to Pig Foot Square to have the show. Kevin met with ODOT and Chris Shonk regarding this. He will have to get permits from ODOT.

OLD BUSINESS:

W. Sheridan Alley: Mrs. Busby lives at 301 W. Sheridan and she says her alley is a mess. The gravel is clogging the drains and everything runs into her yard. Kelly informed her that Ryan Yzenski has been in contact with the County Engineer for Chip and Seal, but we are on their timeline. Kelly will talk to Ryan again to get a better time frame. Council would like to have Ryan get a Vac Truck for a day, to clean out several drains.

St. Rt. 668 Design Meeting: Environmental Design Group would like to schedule a Pubic Meeting to discuss plans and ideas for the 80-acre Callahan property which is adjacent to the Park. The meeting will be May 4th from 3-5pm in the Courthouse. Public input will be greatly appreciated. Kelly will post the meeting several places and also in the Newspaper.

Chief Slack Memorial: Ryan Green said the Horticulture Club has planters that will be placed around the square, and if approve, we could have one for Chief Slack. The one-time cost is \$500.00 from the Village. Ryan motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. Chief Schons will contact the family of Chief Slack when we have a dedication date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hocking College Power Grant and SBC Update from Trace Johnson: Trace shared a brief clip on YouTube of the Mario Smash E-Sport Event that was held. The next event is May 27th. He is working with HAPCAP to hosting about 40 students for a Robotics session. The budget for that is \$50,000 which Job and Family Services will provide. Hapcap would also like to see some after school projects. He talked about CHAT GPT. It is an awesome program which is Artificial Intelligence. He successfully wrote some grant applications using Chat GPT. Wednesday is a Medicare Lunch at the Builders Club where people can learn and discuss their Medicare options.

Trace applied for the Hocking College Appalachian Power Grant. This Grant builds on previous collaborative regional asset-based economic development efforts in Southeast Ohio and focuses on: Creative Planning, Workforce Development and Downtown Revitalization. The total

Budget for this is \$2,274.00 and he is requesting \$1,350,000. From the Grant. \$924,000 will come from State and Local grants. The grant is not a Somerset application, but if approved, Somerset could benefit from the award.

Finck’s Nature Preserve: Kelly stated Ryan is having issues with ATV’s running on the trails. He even put posts up in the middle of the trails and they keep pulling them up and throwing aside. Council said to order a sign for NO ATV’s and a gate to keep them out.

PAY ORDINANCE 5-23: Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

INCOME TAX REPORT: Kelly shared the March income with council of \$4,589.79. Council looked at the Employers who have started the withholdings and not very many are in Somerset. Eric would like to talk with CCA to put pressure on those businesses, and perhaps penalize with interest. Kelly and Tom will call CCA to discuss.

No further business was discussed.

President Eric Emmert

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem