

APRIL 26, 2022
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Members present: Bill Mohler, Doug Fehrman, Mechelle Siemer, Ryan Green, Chris Shonk and Eric Emmert. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Kelly Beem, Will Flautt and Intern Maggie Kaniecki.

There was a group of residents joining the meeting.

Mayor started the meeting with a statement:

“First and foremost, I want to again express my gratitude and the gratitude of the Village of Somerset for the service of former Chief Jeff Pressdee. We find ourselves in the process of selecting a new Chief of Police because of the service and sacrifice of Chief Pressdee, not only to our community but to our nation, and we certainly wish him well in his ongoing recovery from the injuries he suffered in his deployment overseas with the Ohio Army National Guard. We are forever in his debt, as we are to all members of our Armed Services.

I also want to express my gratitude and the gratitude of the Village of Somerset to Sergeant Matt May. Chief Pressdee’s absence was initially expected to be temporary, and in his absence Sergeant May stepped up to help keep the Department running. He took on additional administrative duties while still serving as part of our Canine Unit, even as Chief Pressdee’s military leave was unexpectedly extended into a medical leave due to his injuries. For that, we are grateful.”

Mayor also stated the we will begin interviewing candidates for the Police Chief position within the next 2 weeks and should have a decision by the next council meeting.

Mayor called on Cassie Seum to speak for the group. Cassie is here on behalf to support Matt May as Police Chief. She is not only a resident, but a Business Owner and a single mother. It is nice to have Matt here watching out and protecting her and her family. He is just a phone call away. He does so much outreach with the schools which is awesome. He makes sure the kids are safe and unafraid to reach out to the Police. He has been doing the Chief job for 3 years now and there would be some pretty big shoes to fill.

Elaine Flautt also spoke on Matt’s behalf. Elaine is concerned why we are looking outside for a New Police Chief when Matt has been doing it for 3 years. Matt is part of the community and know everyone. Even Judge Wilson in 2020 said the Somerset Police are doing a great job. She couldn’t find in the minutes where Matt has been reprimanded at all. He was awarded the Citizen of the Year by the Fire Dept.

Tom thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated he would like to see people attend the council meetings more often. We all care about our community.

Discussion about Live streaming the meetings on Facebook. We could turn off comments if we wanted to. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

This Thursday, Gov. Dewine is expected to release information for Appalachian Counties up to 15 million dollars for Investments in Historic Areas for Community Development opportunities.

MINUTES: Eric motioned to approve the minutes from April 12, 2022, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

Outdoor Seating: Sam Tuten with Sixmo is working to complete a proposal for businesses.

Amended Certificate: Res. 2-22 to authorize Kelly to apply for an amended certificate with County Auditor and declaring in emergency. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Res. 3-22 Authorize expenditures for ARPA Funds and declaring an Emergency. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Garage Doors for Garage: Council would like to know where Ryan will store the salt if doors are approved.

Kelly stated they have a 1 mil levy up for renewal. She will contact County Auditor to get estimates of renewal verses Replacement.

PAY ORDINANCE 9-22: Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Doug motioned to suspend rule and go into executive session to discuss a Real Estate Transaction, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. Bill motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. No action taken.

No further business was discussed. The meeting adjourned.

President Eric Emmert

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem