

**AUGUST 13, 2024**  
**VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING**

**Members present:** Eric Emmert, Doug Fehrman, Mechelle Siemer, Ryan Green, Chris Shonk and Cindy Hayes. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Will Flautt, Sgt. Love, and Kelly Beem.

**MINUTES:** Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye, except Doug and Cindy abstaining.

**SBC UPDATE: Email from Hannah, asking for the rent money.** The issue with this is that we have asked for a long term lease agreement and have not received it yet. In the meantime, we will pay the utility bill. They need to show the ability to run the Builders Club.

**Construction update:** We are proposing to transfer programming line items from the ACG Grant to the Construction portion. \$200,000 from the Tavern, \$250,000 from the Capital Grant, and \$365,000 from USDA grant. Total is \$3,145,591.09 for construction which is \$345,000 short. The plan is to apply for other funding for the gap with Abandoned Mine Land Grant. We also have Dave Troyer and Shane Adams looking at the bid package. Questions were raised about Trace Johnson being the Construction Manager if we have Engineers to do this.

**POLICE UPDATE:** Tom would like to nominate TJ Ross for the Police Chief position. Mayor, Eric and Chris interviewed 3 people for this position. Chris asked if they need to discuss this in executive session, especially for salary. Cindy motioned to suspend rules, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. Eric motioned to go into executive session to discuss personnel, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. Doug motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. No action taken. Tom asked for a motion to hire TJ Ross as Police Chief. Doug motioned to hire TJ Ross at \$65,000, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

Mayor Johnson executed the Oath of Office to Chief Ross.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Safety Study:** We have a zoom meeting with ODOT with Josh Otworth and Ben Boyer next Monday. Their estimate is 3 million for the square. Proposing, Push button crosswalks, Yield to the Left, Bump Outs outside of square. And striping. We may lose parking spots. We will have a 10% match with this.

**W Sheridan Alley:** Eric states AEP is relocating the poles. Cannon Survey is going to concrete the Property Pins for us because someone keeps pulling them out.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Clean Ohio Application:** Kelly and Justin are working to finalize this application for the Callahan Property and wooded areas for Preserve. This could almost payoff the Callahan property. The application is due Sept. 27, 2024.

**Abandoned Mine Land Application:** Mayor submitted a letter of Intent to apply. These funds will support two transformative initiatives designed to revitalize our community and address the legacy of coal mining: The revitalization of our downtown area and the continued development of our Emerald Necklace and St. Joseph's Lake Conservation and recreation initiative. This is a grant for up to 4 million.

**Trees:** We received quotes from Zack Reichley for 6 more trees of \$9,000.00. Ann Bonner, Ryan Yzenski have determined these trees are a hazard and needs removed. Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. Also, the tree on S. Market needs to come down. Kelly will talk with Ryan about getting a quote for that.

**PAY ORDINANCE 13-2024:** After discussion Eric motioned to pay all bills except for SBC bills, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Doug left the meeting at 7pm.

**FISCAL OFFICER:**

**2022-2023 Audit:** Kelly emailed council the findings on the audit. But since it is not finalized, we cannot openly discuss. Kelly asked for everyone to read it and contact her with questions or concerns.

**Ord. 3-24:** Accept and Approve the County Auditor's 2025 Estimated Resources. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

**SBC Fund Status:** Kelly has \$49,000 to transfer from General fund to SBC since it has been in the negative for about 2 years. She received these funds for the Grant Admin for SBC. Ryan motioned to only transfer \$30,000 from General to finish out the year. Council is concerned the Builders Club is not making any money. Eric motioned to give SBC till Jan. 1, 2025 to have a solid lease signed or nothing will be paid after that. Cindy seconded his motion. All voted Aye. Council would like to do away with the contract with Trace Johnson. Questions from Ryan about how is AI going to benefit the residents of Somerset.

**Res. 11-24: Amend Appropriations:** Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

**Res. 12-24: 2025 Paving Project:** The County Engineers and Ryan Yzenski has determined to pave N. Market Street in 2025, and our share of PMVL is \$14,643.00. Our PMVL Fund Status as of July is \$86,876.36. Kelly needs a motion to approve. Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

**Res. 13-24: Resolution to apply for OPWC Grant for Culvert Improvements.** Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

**Res. 14-24: Resolution to apply for OPWC Grant for Oxidation Ditch Improvements.** Ryan motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

**July Financials and Bank Reconciliation:** Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Ryan Green received a quote from FL Pickenpaugh for permanent outdoor PA system of \$6,262.39. There will be speakers on all 4 corners of the square. We can discuss later, and would like to see if the Legion will share the cost.

No further business to discuss, Mechelle motioned to adjourn, all followed in with yes votes.

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President Eric Emmert

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Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem