

AUGUST 8, 2023
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

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

MINUTES: Eric motioned to approve the Minutes from July 11, 2023, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Guest Kevin Wood from IBI Group: Kevin gave an update on a Sewer project for the BPA. The project will upgrade lift stations, relining, expansions for a total of \$2,537,800.00 BPA was offered \$500,000 grant from ARC for matching funds, but the rest would be a loan. Tom stated the new HB has 250 million dollars available with a new round of applicants. We weren't approved the last round of funding. Kevin stated that we could go with OPWC but there is also a match with that. The Sewer plant also needs a sludge press and E. Sheridan upgrade. Council does not want to take out another loan, and Mayor will look for Grants. We have requested RFQ's (Requests for Qualifications) from other Engineering firms. These are due in Aug. 22.

David Marsh is here to request mowing be done going to his property at 400 W Main. There is a guardrail on both sides of St. Rt 22 that is not being mowed. His customers have no where to walk to town other than the street. Doug volunteers to look at it and take care of it.

SBC UPDATE: Trace was unable to attend. The Builder's Club had 3 camps this year on Battle Bots. It was amazing to see children build their robots and battle.

POLICE UPDATE: Chief Schons gave his update. Officer Greathouse resigned due to getting a full-time position at another PD. He would like to implement a Traffic Camera Study with Blue Line Solutions, to be conducted within the two school zones during the first week of school. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

Callahan Property: EDG drafted out Cloverleaf Ball fields, and the wooded areas to be a part of the Emerald Necklace. They also want to develop single family homes, possibly 65. Tom will have them at the next meeting. Council, EDG and the Park Board should all be involved to discuss the upkeep and maintenance.

Downtown Revitalization: Last Congressman Troy Balderson and Jared from Intel visited Somerset, along with several others. Intel has 200 Million for workforce development and are very interested in Somerset. They are piloting a project using AI to tutor K-12 and teachers in the Northern Local School District.

Square Safety Study: We have \$50,000 grant to assist with the Square and Pedestrian Studies.

Gen. Sheridan Monument: Kelly provided the procedure to clean and wax the monument.

Zoning Ordinance: The new zoning ordinance was handed out at the last meeting and Bill asked Council to review and comment. Eric motioned to approve the new ordinance, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

Res. 12-2023: Authorizing PC Engineer to prepare and submit application for paving.

We received a quote to pave N. High Street to the cemetery of \$80,090.00. OPWC grant would cover \$59,267 and our local portion is \$20,823, which we have in our Permissive Fund. Chris motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Contract renewal for Heidi Milner: Heidi started in 2014 to fill a vacant position of Fiscal Officer. She continues to assist Kelly when needed and to cover her while she is away for an extended time. She has not increased her rates. She is asking for \$350.00 a month and \$40.00 an hour when she has to cover Kelly. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye, except Mechelle with a No vote.

Sunday Liquor Sales: Kelly received a quote from WHY I SEE, you are consultants to campaign for Municipalities to petition for Sunday Sales for all of Somerset. Thad Cooperider asked Mayor for this. Eric has done this before and we should be able to do it on our own without paying someone. Kelly will contact Division of Liquor for guidance.

Council Attendance: Mayor stated that with Ryan Green not being able to attend meetings for awhile that it is imperative to have a full council. We need at least 4 members at each meeting and asked if members could work around our scheduled meeting times.

P C Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Res. 11-23: Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Amend Appropriations Res. 13-23: Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

PAY ORDINANCES 11-23 AND 12-23: - Doug motioned to approve both ordinances, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye. Eric noted that we need to keep a good eye on the sewer fund.

BANK RECONCILIATIONS FOR APRIL, MAY, JUNE AND JULY: Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

CCA COLLECTIONS: Kelly shared the current collections.

No further business to discuss, so all voted to adjourn.

President Eric Emmert

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem