

**NOVEMBER 1, 2016  
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING**

**Council members present were: Mike Lally, Bill Mohler, Eric Emmert, Doug Fehrman and Eric Huston. David Snider was absent. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Kelly Beem, Stacey Hicks and Solicitor Will Flautt. BPA members were also present.**

**Guests: Casey Fulk from Tribune, Michelle Robinson with Jason Baughman from Mid East Building Dept., and Steve Glade from Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists.**

Mayor opened the meeting by leading The Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from October 18<sup>th</sup>, were mailed to council members. With no changes, Doug motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Eric H.

Tom asked the BPA members to address the council. Greg Litzinger talked to them about the overtime issue with the water and sewer departments. In order to reduce it, they would like to hire Brian Boring today. Greg asked council for permission to hire a second worker so they can alternate weekend work giving Paul and Ike the weekday schedule. A motion by Bill to hire Brian Boring was seconded by Eric E. all voted Aye. A motion to hire the second worker was made by Bill and seconded by Mike. All voted Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Streetscape Tree Assessment:** Tom stated that our engineers met with ODOT officials and identified a few issues with trees. Some are dying off and some need manicured. A mention of Chinese maple trees to plant. Doug mentioned that those trees die off once trimmed. Stacey is to talk to Arborist Ann Bonner on this.

**Innovation Gateway Update:** Mayor stated that through a number of meetings, they identified several goals for the Somerset Innovation Gateway Project.

*-Each year the Gateway makerspace will allow 50 active makers otherwise lacking access to capital equipment to earn an average of \$5,000 net of costs*

*-As a component of Ohio University Innovation Center's LIGHTS project, promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and business development, a total of 6 new businesses will be created over three years.*

*-The Innovation Gateway will place 75 unemployed adults into positions each year.*

*-Through its dropout recovery activities, the Center will facilitate 12 young adults who otherwise would be dropping out to complete their high school diploma.*

*-The Gateway will allow 50 adults to make a year's worth of progress toward an associate's degree through the Center's partnerships with postsecondary institutions.*

*-The Gateway's online learning facility will allow 35 adults to complete and industry credentials.*

Other indirect benefits expected of the Innovation Gateway include increased broadband access for Somerset, significantly increased access to technology for work and learning, and the contribution of the makerspace and its incubation effect on the Village's ability to develop, attract and retain more skilled and better educated residents. Many dozens of other learners are expected to use the Learning Center each year as they move toward their own learning goals.

Tom reviewed a proposal budget change for the Innovation gateway program as follows: He asked for a motion to switch the budget to Project Management Plan. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric H. All voted Aye.

*Somerset Innovation Gateway Cash Expenditure Budget*

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Original of march LGIF Grant Application</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	Broadband needs			
ConnectOhio	assessment	\$24,500	\$20,000	-\$4,500
Columbus Idea Foundry	Makerspace consulting	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
	Project management; educational development consulting; advanced project development			
Kilden Consulting		\$10,000	\$12,500	\$2,500
Buckeye Hills	Grant administration	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
	Printing and supplies	\$500	\$500	\$0
	Reserve	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**St. Joe's lake.** It was mentioned that since the survey pins are still in place, that we should go out and paint trees or markers showing our boundaries.

**Library Update:** Tom and Dave met with their review board and discussed ways to upgrade the building for under \$4,000.00 that council approved to pay. It was suggested to do the 12 pane windows like the courthouse and Rot Iron handrails. And the awning needs to be more traditional by using canvas awnings. The Brick wall will remain on the front.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Workplace Violence Policy:** The new policy was handed out at the last meeting for council members to review. With some verification needed, Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric H. All voted Aye.

**Tree Assessment:** Tom read over a tree assessment from Ann Bonner. Ann recommended a tree at 127 E Main Street be removed because it is showing signs of decline. Other trees were in good shape, but will need protected during street construction. She also noted potential planting sites. There are four nice large tree planting sites flanking the Lutheran cemetery on W. Gay Street. Large tree planting sites on 126, 124, 120 E. Main Street, and 4-6 planting sites for small or medium trees under wires along the side lot of 100 W. Main St. Eric E and Eric H. will work on the tree assessment.

**Perry County EMA Alert Program:** Kelly shared with council the need to residents to sign up for the emergency alerts with the county EMA. We will start alerting for water outages and boil alerts through them. They will contact everyone in the area that will be affected for us at no charge.

**Insurance & Risk Management Proposal:** Kelly received the proposal back from Wichert Insurance on our property and liability premium. With the increased appraisal of the courthouse, our premium went up \$348.00 for the year. Bill motioned to approve the proposal, seconded by Mike. All voted Aye.

Tom asked Steve Glade to address council. Steve is with a group of volunteers that have a vision for area parks. The group is called Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists (OCVN). They have been working in our Emerald Preserve Park. They have been using their own equipment to mow and maintain the park. Steve would like to purchase equipment to maintain the parks, and would like the Mayors help in applying for a grant. He asked what our vision of the park was. Tom stated that he wanted interpreted signage on the trail and would like the trails maintained.

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Boundaries also need to be posted. Tom stated that we can apply for Emerald Necklace grant in February.

Michelle Robinson spoke to council about the need for a Commercial Building Inspector in Somerset. She introduced Jason Baughman from Mid-East Building Department. This will allow Mid-East to grant full authority to do all things necessary to exercise all enforcement inspections in accordance with Ohio Basic Building Code, within the limits of the Village zoning. Solicitor Will Flautt is to review the papers handed to him and make a recommendation at next council meeting.

**PAY ORDINANCE 16-21:** Tom asked council to review the pay ordinance, and asked to amend the payables and add David Hansen for \$5,000.00 consulting fees. After reviewing the payables, Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Bill would like to thank the contractor for the extra street lights during Trick or Treat night.

Bill also would like to discuss the employee health insurance at next meeting. Kelly will prepare the paperwork and forward to each member.

Tom asked to go into executive session to discuss an employee pay. A motion to suspend rules and go into executive session was made by Bill, and seconded by Eric H. All voted Aye. A motion to go into executive session to discuss an employee pay was made by Mike, and seconded by Eric H. All voted Aye.

Discussion was held on Bowie, a K9 for the Police dept. Chief was going to retire him due to health problems, but since, Bowie has been doing well. Chief and Bowie were recently certified to work.

Executive session started at 8:40pm. Council returned from executive session at 9:00pm with a motion from Doug and seconded from Mike. All voted Aye. No action taken.

With nothing further to discuss Mike motioned to adjourn, and seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

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**Mayor Tom Johnson**

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**President David Snider**

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**Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem**