

**DECEMBER 21, 2021**  
**VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING**

**Members present were:** David Snider, Doug Fehrman, Mike Lally, Bill Mohler and Eric Emmert. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Solicitor Will Flautt, Aaron May, and Kelly Beem. Jim Wilson and Greg Litzinger from BPA also joined briefly. Two new council members Ryan Green and Chris Shonk attended the meeting as well.

Sgt. Aaron May introduced Aaron Hefler as a new Auxiliary Officer. Mayor Johnson presented the Oath of Office to him.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Safe Routes to School:** Mayor talked about the application for funding to get issues with parking at the school and safe routes to school. Chris Shonk thought applications were being accepted in mid January.

**Dave Emmert's Property:** The Village would like to have a couple right of ways on his property for our water and sewer lines, and also to the property we own on the back side. He needs a Right of Way to access St. Rt. 22.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Cemetery Agreement:** The Township would like Council to consider a joint Cemetery District for Reading Township. They ask that if we both put funds into the district then they will place a levy on the ballot. Council would like to have a meeting with the Trustees on this to discuss further. Cemeteries were transferred to Township and not the Village responsibility. Cemeteries are assets to the communities. Doug mows the Lutheran cemetery along with Ryan and Noelle because the township hasn't taken care of them.

**Courthouse Preservation Committee:** Tom asked David Snider to head the committee to preserve the courthouse. David accepted and said it really needs to be done. First formed committee was back in 1970's. Schooley Caldwell and Bob Loversedge have worked on this previously. We were awarded \$150,000 to move forward with design and replace windows back then. Bill said the Lions Club raised money for the Courthouse by public donations.

**Endowment Fund:** The Appalachian Fund has \$20,000 which includes matching funds. The Horticulture has \$17,000 and have pledged \$1,000 for 5 years from lasagna dinners for the fund. This will be matched 100%. There is a Somerset Fund as well. We could open a Somerset Courthouse Preservation Fund. Mayor would like council to pledge \$1,000 a year for 5 years for the Somerset Fund. Kelly has pledge cards in the office if others would like to pledge.

**ODOT SR 757 Paving agreement:** ODOT will be paving SR 757 and needs a consent Legislation document signed by the Village. The agreement needs some changes, but once the changes are made, David motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

**Tree removal at 206 N. Columbus.** Mike Fehrman gave an estimate of removing 2 trees at 206 N. Columbus of \$1400.00 David motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye, except Doug abstaining. This could be part of the Streetscape project. Mayor wants Horticulture club to be given tree issues.

**ODOT Tap Streetscape IV:** Eric motioned to approve filing an application, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

**Wichert Insurance Liability Coverage:** Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

**County Auditor Estimated Resources 2022:** Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

**Res. 21-16 To Amend Certificate:** Bill motioned to approve, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

**2022 Budget:** Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

**2022 Permanent Appropriations:** Ord. 6-21 motioned to approve by Eric, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

**PAY ORDINANCES 21-21 & 22-21:** Eric motioned to approve both, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

**FINANCIALS FOR NOV & BANK REC.:** Eric motioned to approve, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

Mayor spoke on increasing employee holidays to Council. More discussion will be held in January, along with salary increases. Eric will share with Kelly salary surveys he has.

David mentioned repairs are needed for the pond at Finck's Spring. The only problem is the property lines are in the middle of the dam.

Council would like Mayor to have Ohio TT come back for an update on the Broadband.

Bill thanked David and Mike for their many years of service, and Mayor presented them each with a certificate for 27 years of service.

The roof is being repaired at Underwoods now.

---

President

---

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem