

Village of Somerset

Mayor
Tom Johnson

Founded 1807
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Village Council Meeting
May 19, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Tom Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Tom Johnson

Reading of Previous Minutes by Tom. Doug moved and Linda seconded to accept the minutes. Roll call, all yeas.

Roll Call: Present - Tom, Dave, Linda, Doug, Mike, Eric, Bill, Tiffany, Jane

Guests: Mitch Altier, IBI Group & Casey Sargel, reporter, Perry Co. Tribune

Old Business

Streetscape Project Update: Bids opened on June 19th. Should be beginning in mid-July and finish in Oct. Will go around square. Phase II application has been submitted for next year. Crabapple trees will be replaced by shade trees. Eleven trees need to be removed. Dave will coordinate with Kevin Wood about the trees.

2015 Paving Project– Mitch Altier reported that the Village had applied for an Ohio Public Works grant for North drive and some curb and gutter work at the end of Market Street. The project did not get funded. Do we want to submit the same project or something different? Total cost was \$200,000, \$158,000 was grant, and the rest was Village funding. Mitch said in order to be competitive, we have to put more money in or take out a loan. We could assure funding if we had 21% local share. \$400,000 or less, only gets 50 points for a grant application. New Lexington received project funding last year so we should be eligible this year. We could submit two proposals, one for paving and one for water and sewer, which will have to come from another grant. Applications will be due in the fall with grants being made in July. We will know in November if we are going to get the funding. Tom said the hard winter played havoc with our streets. Bad place on North Columbus but Ronnie fixed it.

High Street Drainage issue. Dave said there are two proposals: One using our money, \$6000 and One as a CDBG application for \$24,000. Funds would be available next July and we would know by November whether we were going to be funded or not. Mitch said applications would probably be due the end of August. Doug and Eric want to see plans. Dave also brought up the Bussey situation. We need to address this now. Dave said it looks like a couple of loads of dirt graded and seeded should do the trick.

Interior collapse of 109 W. Main St. update

Tom sent a letter (handout) to the Ohio Development Services Agency regarding the building asking for consideration for emergency funding to stabilize the Cooperrider building. The Agency has money for emergencies like this. The Village could acquire the property and have a low-interest loan. Dave has been in conversation with them.

The Perry County CIC meets next week and will discuss the building collapse and hopefully will provide funding.

Police Department Vehicle purchase update – We did buy it.

Summer Youth Program: Chief Vandermark designed a youth program for this summer for 5 days a week police academy for 13-16 yr. olds. He said would cost \$800. Tom asked him to raise it to \$1600 so the kids

could be taken to the Wilds at the end of the project. Commitment for the kids. Ben Carpenter will teach them about kayaking and then will take them to St. Joe's lake. Some will work on nature preserve, invasive species removal. 18-24 yr. olds. Bill moved and Eric seconded to approve this project. Roll call vote, all yeas.

Bike Program: Tom gave an update on the bike program. Bike taxis will be available during farmers' market time – kids can take people for rides. The PC Sheriff is donating bikes to the Village. Chief Vandermark will coordinate the program. PC Health Dept. has an insurance program to cover accidents. Looking for coverage for individuals. Will said we will not be 100% covered for liability. Credit cards will be taken and held until the return of the bike which should ward off stealing of bikes. Bill said that maybe we should have them sign a waiver of liability.

New Business

Wastewater & Water Capital Plan Update – Julie Ward, RCAP has worked with the Board of Public Affairs to help the Village create a 10 year plan. \$6-7 million needed for improvements over the next 10 years. Julie is bringing experts in to do a total walk-thru July 6 and 7. She invited Council members and staff to come also. Goals are to set priorities and save money. Phase I will address water treatment plant and spillway issues. Rates are good for sewer, but water is 1.3% of median income. We have to save money on the water side. An energy analysis of costs compared to other projects has already been done. 300% is way too high. We should be able to negotiate lower rates. The Village has never done that before (energy costs). Sewer rates are on the low side 1.1%. Usually RCAP sees 5%, so our rates are good. There are common thresholds that industry uses, including median income. Julie will have a compete plan at next meeting. Julie said our biggest problem is I and I coming into system from private properties and ??? gal connections. Tom said we should be proud of our infrastructure. Tom praised Julie for her hard work on this and said we are in better shape than most communities our size. Tom also praised Mitch Altier and the Board of Public Affairs. We need 50-65% funding.

Julie is also going to update water and sewer regulations. These new regulations will be on our new website.

Brick Streets. Tom said Sheridan Ave by his house, is a brick street that is getting bad sooner than we thought. Talked to someone in Athens about using the bricks and said brick is easier to maintain. Would Council consider a street to be converted to brick and see how it goes? Dave, where is street regarding gutters, curbs etc. Need to be replaced, but no money. Brown St. in New Lex in freezing rain – just like a slalom.

New Village Website: Tiffany shared, which has history, attractions, events, businesses, artists co-op, etc. Eventually resolutions, ordinances, minutes and photos of council, BPA members and staff will be on the new website with Council. Everyone felt Tiffany did a great job creating the new website.

Tom asked Jane to play the video from the Ohio Arts Council Awards Luncheon.

Council reviewed the **Pay Ordinance**. Motion to accept by ????, seconded by ???? Roll call vote, all yeas.

Public Comments:

Ohio Dept. of Health asked if we could have our own ordinance to ban the sale of cigarettes or any tobacco products. Jenny LaRue made a presentation about tobacco products in our community:

The Perry County Auditor gives licenses for the sale of tobacco products. In 1998 Ohio and 46 other states filed a suit banning tobacco. A fund was set up for tobacco education. Smoke-free work place legislation is in place. Not all tobacco products are

regulated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Use of tobacco products by teens has gone down, but boys are now chewing tobacco. Stats from New Lex and Crooksville show most kids believe over 50% of adults are using tobacco products so they think it is ok for them too. E-cigarettes, can be more dangerous than tobacco due to the toxins in them. A new law was passed that you have to be 18 to smoke E-cigarettes. *Jenny gave us information on how we can limit sales by zoning.* Tom asked Jenny to make a presentation to the Zoning and Planning Commission.

Adjournment: Doug moved to adjourn, ??? seconded. All yeas.

Mayor Tom Johnson

Council President David Snider

Fiscal Officer Kelly Been