

# Village of Somerset Council Minutes

July 21, 2015

**Roll Call:** Linda Henery, Doug Fehrman, Dave Snider, Mike Lally, Eric Huston, Bill Mohler

**Guests:** Casey Sargel, Mike Henery, Kevin Wood, IBI Group, Suze Litzinger, Catherine Padgett

**Minutes:** Tom read previous meeting minutes. Dave moved to accept, Bill seconded. Roll call vote, all ayes.

## Old Business

### **Increasing Energy Efficiency in a Four County Region Findings Report -- Kevin Wood, IBI Group**

reported that Somerset had obtained a \$100,000 Energy Efficiency grant for Somerset, Logan, and Athens County. Somerset took the lead in the process. The plan was reviewed at the last meeting, but Council decided to wait until this meeting to approve the plan in order for everyone to have time to read the report.

Hocking College, Ohio University, Rural Action, PERCO and Buckeye Hills all worked together, representing Hocking, Athens, Morgan and Perry counties. The Village wanted to focus on water and sewer plant energy usage. Buildings and lines are big energy users. Replacing sewer lines will really help a lot. We are doing this now. (Attached is a list of future water and sewer projects)\*

This is a 10 year plan. Logan focused on a vacant building to make a regional green transit location and may put offices in building too. Athens County has done a lot of energy efficiency improvements in government buildings. There are a lot of potential partners for this project. For example, partnering with a university, using waste to make electricity. Somerset is focusing on water and sewer Clean and Green Initiative and more efficient lighting in the square as part of the Streetscape Project.

**Resolution 15-19:** Bill moved to accept the final report, and Linda seconded to accept report on second reading. Roll call vote, all yeas. There will be a third reading at the next Council meeting.

**Energy Aggregation:** Kevin talked about the potential benefits of energy aggregation. Several cities have put energy aggregation on the ballot and passed. Somerset could negotiate lower rates for whole village. Kevin said McConnelesville has already put it on the ballot too. Kelly has lowered the rate substantially. Linda said we should put info about it on our website. Dave asked if we would be bound by anything. Kevin said "NO" - PUCO will not come and look at what we have done. Tom said a PUCO person wants to come to a council meeting to discuss it, however we must approve it tonight on an emergency basis in order to get it on the ballot in time. Motion by Doug, seconded by Mike to suspend the rules. Motion to approve **Ord 15-05 – Electric Aggregations** by Bill, seconded by Doug. Roll call vote, all yeas to approve and put on ballot.

Tom said USDA has home loans for low-income people and he passed out brochures explaining the program.

**Streetscape Update:** Kevin said ODOT will be setting up a pre-construction meeting with the Village and Shelly and Sands. Kevin hopes it will be very soon. Crippen will have to be here for that meeting too. We have \$27,000 from CDBG and an additional \$3,000 for signage, including signs on new light posts that will be particularly designed for Somerset. HAPCAP has to bid the signage out for us. Studio Graphique is doing the design work for us.

Dave talked about stories – Several people are working on writing stories for signage. Here are some snippets of interesting stories: Ditto was her name, her wedding dress is in the collection at the Ohio History Museum. Henry Humbarger, gunsmith, patented many rifles. The Hess family members were weavers and cover makers extraordinaire, many of their works hang in a collection at the Columbus Museum of Art, Zane Trace, Pigfoot Square. In 1815, the first agricultural society in Ohio was established. Caleb Atwater lived where Rosey Reds is and in 1832 tried to renovate the school system. He also measured all the mounds and in 1850 created a county fair. Hippodrome War, President Harrison's visit to Columbus, an 80 ft. flag pole built in the square, new railroad, county seat removal - all are great stories.

Santa Anna (emperor of Mexico) and Blackhawk (chief from Kansas Prairie tried to declare war on us. A couple lived in Virginia and the Indians kidnapped a young boy and his parents moved to Somerset. Native medicines cured the young boy. The Ewings adopted General Sherman (pink house) in Lancaster. Nuns ran open field hospitals in the civil war. Established a college. Where Larues live, was the owner of the stagecoach that went from here to Zanesville and had more horses than anyone else. We have the 1828 Tax Duplicate which tells where everyone lived. Gen Sheridan was president of the NRA.

Tom said he hopes our stories will encourage our residents to learn more about their hometown.

**Waste Management.** – will only do current rate for 1 year and then raise it the next two years. Tom reminded them that they owe us \$5000 a year for community projects. Shadeee has info. Somerset had 67 tons of recycling this year, we want to increase it every year.

**Woodrow Residence Update** – Jane reported that the yard has been cleaned up on both sides. Jason has photos of the property taken after the clean up.

#### **New Business**

**Time Warner** is increasing rate from 3% to 5%. Last year we received \$9000. Dave moved to approve second reading. Bill seconded. Roll call vote, all yeas.

**Perpetual yard sale** house sold and the new owner is trying to evict them.

**Board of Elections** confirmed our levies will be on the ballot.

**Update on Cooperriders Building.** Tom asked for emergency stabilization funding from Ohio Development Services Agency.

Doug gave an **update on trees.** He also met with Nancy Shumaker and Rita Crossen about plants.

Eric gave a **Park Board** meeting update. Denny and Jim going off park board. Need replacements. The Board has \$71,970. Movies in Park have all been canceled because of weather.

**Pay Ordinances:** Dave moved to approve, Bill seconded to approve **Pay Ordinance 15-19.** Roll call vote, all yeas. Linda moved to approve, Bill seconded to approve **Pay Ordinance 15-20.** Roll call vote, all ayes.

#### **Public Comments:**

Mike Henery submitted Dick Pettit's resignation letter.

**Adjournment:** 9:05 Moved to adjourn Linda, seconded by Doug. Roll call vote, all ayes.

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Kelly Beem, Village Fiscal Officer

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Dave Snider, President

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Tom Johnson, Mayor

\* Not handed out at the meeting.