

AUGUST 1, 2017
SOMERSET VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

Members present include David Snider, Bill Mohler, Mike Lally, Eric Emmert, Doug and Eric Huston. Also present were Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem, Solicitor Will Flautt, Stacey Hicks, and intern Evan Hertzog. Mayor Johnson was absent so President Snider presided.

Guests: Rick Strohl representing the zoning board, Holly Griffin, and Sarah Conley from SolSmart Energy Solutions.

Minutes: The meeting minutes from July 18th were discussed. Doug thanked Stacey for mentioning the ODOT workers assisting with the tree removal from the prior storms and for sending the letter. Eric H. motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mike. Bill, Mike, and Eric H. voted Aye. Doug and Eric E. abstained since they were not present.

Holly Griffin who resides at 203 Fancy St came to discuss her property that she put on the market. The preschool owns the property directly behind hers. She doesn't believe it's ever been mowed since it changed hands. The plants, including poisonous varieties, are starting to grow onto her property. She has brought the issue to numerous people within the village, but doesn't feel like it has been acted on. Chief Pressdee did talk to them, but the preschool said they didn't own it. Dave Snider said they would look into it and Stacey has her contact information.

Rick Strohl from the zoning board came to council to begin the process of getting new zoning permit fees approved. It was previously brought to council and two readings were completed, but the third was never done in January or February of 2015. The fees haven't been raised since 1995. There is no need to advertise since it is just rates, not attached to the zoning ordinance. Dave Snider completed the first reading and said council would schedule the second. Eric H. motioned to approve it and Bill seconded it. All voted aye.

Sarah Conley Balllew representing the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) came to council to discuss the SolSmart program. It helps people and communities access renewable energy solutions. Tom is serving on SOPEC board of directors and expressed interest in developing solar power in Somerset. She gauged the current state of solar power in Somerset and said it's common for the region to not have a lot of renewable energy options. Athens is booming with solar now – it's a popular solution for renewable energy since cost has decreased. Nationally solar is taking off at a rapid pace and regionally it's trending. Southeast Ohio has been energy leaders for the nation, but the shift away from coal has had an impact. This is a way for us to be an energy leader again. SE Ohio is the brightest in Ohio and land is more affordable, so they are looking to the area for solar development in the region. There are a lot of costs, which results in barriers, for example: a lack of policy support and lack of knowledge. Capacity of solar is doubling and price is decreasing. Solsmart wants to enable our community and are designating 300 areas across the county. We are the only small city looking into solar out of all their designations. It's a 6-month process: July – December. Sarah is working with 4 communities. Dave nominated Tom to be her point person. We can check off the solar statement, which Stacey completed with Tom. The zoning review would be next step. There are grants and incentives for differing groupings.

Old Business:

Streetscape: Eric H. said they are pouring and just working around curbs around the rain in front of Carpenter's. They were going to reuse brick, but due to differing heights we can't use them for ODOT. All workers have been very accommodating and flexible. Brick aprons were assumed that they'd go back in, but it never got translated to the plans that way. Whole project came in under original budget. We're spending 5 cents to the dollar. Council wants to work with Holy Trinity Church and continue the sidewalk down. Shelly should do it, but council needs to get an estimate first. Won't be paid from the streetscape project dollars; will have to come from somewhere else.

Medical Center Project: Groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for 10:30am on August 30th.

Oil & Gas Lease: Will said it's standard. They might not ever hit anything, but might as well let them try. Not going to be a moneymaker; low risk, low reward. Eric E. motioned to approve them, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Commodore Purchase Agreement: Julie Landis wanted actual changes to agreement and Will made those changes. Will's changes were to reword it as an "option" to purchase instead of just purchasing it. We're paying \$5,000 in advance that's nonrefundable, but it comes off of purchase price if we go through with the purchase. If it does go through it will be inspected and bought as is. It has been written in that at the time of payment current owners will be responsible for paying all past due bills at time of closing and village will wave late fees. Must gut it and start over with how poorly the conditions are. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric H. All voted Aye.

New Business:

Building Ordinance and application: Michelle Robinson to work with Zanesville. Will said we shouldn't sign off on it. Wants someone who specializes to sign off on it. Language might need to be changed. Willing to pay for the expertise so we can fund the entire project and don't mess up the legality of the project. Motion to approve legal assistance with Bricker & Eckler up to \$16,000 maximum. Eric H. motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

USDA Rural Business Development Grant Approval: Need approval for Tom to sign. Going to defer to wait to hear from Tom.

2018 Budget Approval: Kelly reviewed the 2018 budget. All departments look good. She will submit to county auditor immediately and will update the budget closer to year end. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Resolution 17-14 Amend Appropriations: Just moving expenditures. Allowing for Tom to hire Steven for the rest of the year. Legal fees, etc. will bring it back to zero balance. Bill mentioned raises. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric E. All voted Aye. Pay ordinance Mike, Eric H All voted Aye.

Kelly informed council of estimates from Mike Fehrman to remove trees for us for \$2700.00. Eric E. motioned to approve seconded by Bill. Eric, H., Eric E., Bill, and Mike voted Aye. Doug abstained. Doug will ask AEP for assistance to removing the trees.

Board of Public Affairs would like a \$1.00 raise an hour for Ike and Paul. Overtime has been cut dramatically and they haven't had a raise before last year for 6 years. Dave suggested leaving it on the table until they received performance reviews, Doug agreed. Kelly said she'd have assessments sent out and received to review. Mike motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Pay Ordinance 17-14: There being no discussion on the payables, Mike motioned to approve, seconded by Eric H. All voted Aye.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

President David Snider

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem