

AUGUST 24, 2021
VILLAGE OF SOMERST COUNCIL MEETING

Members present were: Mike Lally, Bill Mohler, Eric Emmert, Doug Fehrman, Mechelle Siemer and David Snider. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Kelly Beem, Matt May and Aaron May.

Mayor asked Sgt. Matt May for an update on the arrest at 136 E. Main Street. Matt explained there was a statewide warrant on the resident. Matt attempted a traffic stop and the guy fled. He had a 38 revolver and barricaded himself in the trailer. Matt contacted New Lex Police, and Fairfield SWAT team. Matt contacted the school as to the situation. The SWAT shot gas into the trailer, and finally after a time, made entry and arrested the resident. There have been 35 incidents at that resident since 2020, suspicious person, thefts, domestic violence 5 times and the incident last Friday. Mayor talked with the property owner Mike Flautt. Mike will get a quote to demolish and remove the trailer. Told him it would probably be the will of council to condemn and declare the property a nuisance.

Doug would like to Thank our Police Officers for the actions taken and the process of contacting the school to protect the children. Eric agreed with Doug and Thanked the Mayor for talking with Mike Flautt. Eric motioned to condemn and declare the property a nuisance and allow Mayor to handle all legal proceedings in doing so. David seconded his motion. All voted Aye.

Guest: Dick Pettit: Dick stated that property has been a problem for 16 years. He has contacted members of Council several times. Once there was 200 bags of trash and rats. He would like to know why it took so long for council to believe that there is a problem there and why it takes so long to do anything about it. Elaine Flautt is concerned this is an ongoing problem in Somerset. We have kids walking the sidewalks going to and from school. They called the Health Dept several times for sewer backup, feces, toilet paper on the ground. Her concern is the legal grounds to make sure the property owner does as he has said and not let it delayed. Mayor will obtain legal Counsel. Elaine asked Mayor to keep her and Dick updated on the actions taken. Dick would like all the dates of the action taken. Next council meeting we should have the legal answer, and hopefully the trailer will be removed. The tenant's mother was here as well. Phyllis Shepherd would like to know when they can get her daughters items out of the trailer. Mayor said that since it is condemned, she should get those items immediately. Tom will have the Police tape the property off.

MINUTES: Eric motioned to approve the minutes from August 10, 2021, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

DORA Update: We received an email from Sam Tuten stating Council will vote on a resolution on Sept 14th then it will be done and won't require any further actions. Once passed, we will work on getting the information compiled to be sent to the Liquor control.

POP UP COMPETITION: This year's competition will begin on Sept. 14, for 6 weeks. The classes will be held on Tuesdays from 5-7pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trailer Park Roads: Kelly sent a letter to the property owner regarding the condition of the roads and concerns for emergency vehicles. The owner replied they are filling in the roads now and are setting aside funds to pave them next year.

Opioid Settlement Agreement: The State reached a settlement with Amerisource Bergen, Cardinal and McKesson. The Village would receive just shy of \$3,000, but this resolution needs to be approved by council. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye, except Mechelle abstained.

ODOT snow and Ice removal: This is an agreement from Council to ODOT to remove snow and ice on US HWY 22, SR 13, SR 757 and SR 668 for the Village. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Tree Pruning: ODNR is holding a training day in October for Somerset. Mayor will have our Street Superintendent Ryan attend. There are several trees that need pruned. Mayor will have Ryan get a quote to top off the tree at Ann Bigelow's house. Kelly asked council to send her addresses where trees need trimmed so she can add them to the TO DO LIST.

PAY ORDINANCE 15-21: Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

FINANCIALS: Eric motioned to approve the July Financials, seconded by Mike. All voted Aye.

Matt May stated Whitehall has two 2017 Ford Explorer cruisers ready to sell for \$8,000.00 each. They come with radios and lights. He is in the process of removing equipment and lettering from our two old dodge cruiser to take to auction. Mechelle motioned to approve the purchase of the two 2017 ford explorers, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

Matt also stated the school supply drive was another huge success. This year was three times more than last. He was able to donate to Somerset, Holy Trinity, Glenford as well as Thornville Elementary. He had several volunteers from the Big Foot Club to help sort all the items. He was very appreciative of their help.

Tom met with County Engineer today on 3 water/sewer projects. The first is to replace the water meters with remote meters. The cost is 1.3 mil. These would-be real-time readings and will alert when there is high usage as possible leaks. Another would be to expand lines. There is 17 acres for sale on A.K. Wilson drive, that we may want to run lines for a future development. The third project would be to run lines to Mt. Perry. This project would score higher than the other two. With the funds coming from ARPA, there would not be any match to the Village.

Mayor stated the Reservoir dredging could possibly be done as well. He will have Mitch and Kevin respond to the need since we have St. Joe's Lake.

Tom gave compliments to Mechelle for the food table at the Symphony. They looked very nice.

Last Friday, the State Dept. of Development services said there were CDBG funds available to public areas. This would give Bret Alphin a bigger budget for DORA and the Outdoor seating.

With no further business to discuss, Doug motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mike. All voted Aye.

President David Snider

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem