

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**  
**VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Mohler, Doug Fehrman, Mechelle Siemer and David Snider. Also present were Kelly Beem, Mayor Johnson, Will Flautt and Matt May. Mike Lally arrived later.

Guests:

Rick Campbell, Seth Ellington, Waste Away  
Vince Crawford, Waste Management  
Jenny Larue, Tobacco 21  
Michelle Robinson

Mayor Johnson started the meeting with the Waste Hauling Services.

Somerset was contacted recently by Waste Management and told that our trash hauling contract was due to expire October 1st and they were unwilling to continue to provide services at the current price of \$13.64 p/mo or \$163.68 per family/per year and that the village would need to put the contract out to bid because prices had increased. Their bid would have increased the cost per family in the third year of the contract to \$307.20 (an increase of \$143.52 per family/per year).

The lowest bid was received by Waste Away a small local company that was founded by former mayors Jim and Gwen Young's niece's son. Their bid will still increase costs but only by \$75.12 per family/per year in the third year.

After hearing from both Companies, and discussion, Bill motioned to approve the lowest bid with Waste Away, seconded by David. Roll call voted, David and Bill yes, Mechelle and Doug No. Since there was a tie vote, Mayor Johnson voted Yes. Motion passed.

It was a difficult decision to switch from long-time partner Waste Management, but we checked references with communities that use Waste Away and they have been positive.

Doug motioned to suspend rules for Executive Session, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. Bill motioned to go into executive session to discuss Personnel Matters, seconded by David. All voted Aye. Council asked Solicitor and Kelly to attend as well as Board of Public Affairs. Bill motioned to return to regular session, seconded by David. All voted Aye. No Action Taken.

Jenny Larue gave an update on Tobacco 21. She shared a flyer with stats on smoking and the new age for smoking is now 21.

Jenny also mention the flashing lights need to be installed with a push button to cross instead of the continual flashing solar lights. We could possibly use the solar powered signs by post office crosswalk.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from September 3, 2019 were mailed. Dog motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Letter from Cindy Grimm:** Cindy sent a letter to Mayor and Council regarding a maple tree at 200 E Main St. is full of boring beetles. There is also a tree at 211 S. Market St. with beetles.

**Constitution Proclamation:** Sept. 17-23 is Constitution Week. The Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution would like the Village Proclaim this week at Constitution week. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

**Small Business Development Coordinator:** Tom would like council to approve Jim Sweeney as Coordinator for USDA Grant. He would oversee the consultants, lead on projects and organize Sunday Liquor sales ballot for 2020. He would receive \$3000 a month for 3 months, paid through Grant monies. David motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

**Michelle Robinson Commitment Letter:** Michelle explained to Council of her commitment for Hotel Swisher. She is solely responsible for her project and no commitment from Council needed.

**BBCO AND PRATER ENGINEERING AGREEMENTS:** These agreements are for architecture and design for Hotel Swisher. No commitment from Village. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

**ENERGILITY CONTRACT:** The contract proposes to deliver energy assessment for businesses in Somerset. The contracted price is \$25,000. Cost share if \$1600.00 per business. David motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

**COUNCIL MEETEING DAYS:** Mayor Johnson asked if anyone objected to changing the meeting nights to Thursday Nights instead of Tuesday. No one objected. Doug motioned to approve the day to Thursdays with a time change to 6PM. David seconded his motion. All voted Aye. Kelly will post a Public Notice in paper and windows around town.

**2020 PROPOSED BUDGET:** Kelly shared her proposed budget with Council. She asked they look it over and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

Chief May gave a brief update. He has arrested 4 people with a rash of break-ins, and there was a person exposing himself around town. Sgt. Aaron May arrested that person today.

Brief discussion about hiring a clerk for the window. Council would like to wait before posting that position.

**PAY ORDINANCE 16-2019:** After reviewing the bills, Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

No further business to discuss, David motioned to adjourn, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. Meeting ended at 9:25pm.

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President David Snider

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Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem