

JANUARY 24, 2023
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Members present: Mechelle Siemer, Eric Emmert, Chris Shonk, Ryan Green and Bill Mohler. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Will Flautt and Kelly Beem.

Minutes from January 10, 2023: Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye except Mechelle abstained.

2023 Committee members: Mayor will report on this at the next meeting.

GUEST: Jacob Tener: Jacob addressed council and the Mayor regarding the tree on our property, which is at 208 S. Columbus St. He has asked several times to have it trimmed. He is afraid a large branch will fall on his house. The tree is breaking apart and pieces lay on the sidewalk as well. He is afraid of damage to his house, and walkers. Mayor will make that a tree a priority and get a quote for it.

Police: Chief Schons was not at the meeting but did leave a summary with Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Real Estate Transaction: Mayor explained that the Village is purchasing the Callahan property of 668. Approximately 80 acres. This will all be financed through Grants for the purchase. The Village has lots of opportunities for this site. (E.g. New Fire House, Park extension, run a new sewer line across the property to omit a couple lift stations) The house and barns on the property can be sold with some ground for a small farm. Once the acquisition of the property is done, we will have a Planning Firm come in and design the layout. We will also get Community input as well. Mayor would like to extend the closing for an additional 60 days, and the owners requested \$2,000 to approve the extension. Mayor asked for a motion to approve this. Bill motioned to approve the 60-day extension and payment of \$2,000, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

Somerset Builders Club: Trace Johnson said the Builders club received a \$563,000 Grant, and \$250,000 Grant. This will go towards the structure and roof of the building, design and construction of the upstairs. Also, a new HVAC, Electric, Water/Sewer will be included. He has started a monthly membership of \$15.00 per month, for anyone wanting to be a member and come in and use the facility.

NEW BUSINESS:

Congressional Member Directed Spending Awards: Mayor Johnson announced the Village just received confirmation today of \$563,000 to be used for the Builders Club, and \$125,000 for the Callahan property purchase. This is all great news for Somerset.

Water/Sewer Update: Mayor gave a brief update on the issues at the sewer plant. At times of heavy rain, some sludge spills over to the creek. This is not acceptable. He has been working with the director of EPA on this but upgrades are needed at the plant. Tom is in contact with Greg Litzinger of the BPA as well, and very pleased with the process.

Mutual Aid Agreement (WARN): BPA would like council to approve this mutual aid agreement. It allows us to have contacts around the state should a situation arise for a plant operator or parts. There is no charge for this agreement. Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

Requests for Qualifications: Mayor Johnson would like to advertise for Engineering firms to submit RFQs to address short term issues and a long-term upgrade plan. EPA will help with the advertising. He needs a motion from council to advertise this. Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

Office Copier: Kelly stated the officer copier lease is about to expire and presented council with quotes to keep the current copier, lease a new one or purchase a new one. Council asked her to get another quote from Gordon Flesch and report back.

New tires for Street Dept Truck: Ryan received a quote from Newlon Tire for new tires of \$1,048.00. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

PAY ORDINANCE 1-2023: Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Year End Financials and Dec. Bank reconciliation: Kelly reviewed with council the year end is almost complete and ready to send to the State Auditor's Office. She reviewed all the financials, and concerns regarding certain departments. She will place a legal ad in the paper announcing the year end financials are available for review. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

A motion to suspend rules was made by Mechelle, and seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. A motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue was made by Bill, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. A motion by Mechelle to return to regular session, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. No action taken.

No further business was discussed, and a unanimous vote to adjourn was made.

President Eric Emmert

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem