

**JANUARY 26, 2021**  
**VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING**

**Members present were:** David Snider, Bill Mohler, Mechelle Siemer, and Doug Fehrman. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Kelly Beem, Will Flautt and Sgt. Matt May.

**Minutes from January 12, 2021:** Bill motioned to approve, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Somerset Builders Club:** Alex Bandar joined by Zoom that CM Collaborative will start construction Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. He still has some kitchen equipment that will be moved out this week. Audio and Media equipment is being purchased. He has agreements with WOSU in Columbus and OSU for assistance with Online and E Learning services. Doug mentioned he would like the construction supplies be purchased locally if at all possible.

**Mitch Altier** is here to stating the Water Project is almost wrapped up, but there is a change order to approve for TAM Construction. The original actuators for the Water Plant were the wrong size, so they had to re-order the correct size. The change order is for \$15,484.80. The complete project was about \$40,000 under the estimate, and BPA is looking at ways to use up that money. Bill motioned to approve the change order, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

Mitch also discussed the costs for radio read water meters. This would be a fixed base system, with a tower to pull all the readings in. The cost would be \$515,500 to install as the service lines are now. If they wanted new service lines and dig holes for the meters the cost would be over 1million.

Mitch shared a design as to where the new Lamp Posts will be placed on N. Columbus St. with the current Streetscape Project. They are being placed closer than the ones previously.

**Community Reinvestment Area:** Michelle Robinson joined the meeting by Zoom. We need to adopt an Ordinance establishing and describing the boundaries of the Community Reinvestment Area in Somerset, and adopting tax abatements for residents, and businesses in that district. A letter also has to be sent to Northern Local Schools for their input and approval. A letter will be sent as well as conversations to arrange a meeting with the Superintendent and School Board members.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Next Streetscape Project:** Mitch shared a design for the next project, including a sidewalk extension to Sheridan Arms Apts. on the East side, and several other sidewalks around the Village. An Application needs approval to proceed with the project and apply for funding. The cost is estimated to be around \$2,064,690. The design and Engineering fee is \$103,234.50 which is what the Village will have to pay. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

**Broadband and Outdoor Seating:** Several businesses have spoken to Mayor Tom about permanent outdoor sitting areas, plus additional parking. Possible use of Cares Act Funding.

Michelle Robinson shared details of the Hotel Swisher. It will be a 15 room Boutique style Hotel. She is hoping for a June construction start date.

**PAY ORDINANCE 2-21:** Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye, except Mechelle abstaining.

Mechelle motioned to suspend rules and go into executive session, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. Mechelle motioned to go into executive session to discuss personnel, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. Doug motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. No action taken.

David motioned to approve the pay raises for employees as presented, starting with the first pay in February, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

David motioned to raise the Council and BPA pays from \$17.00 a meeting to \$50.00 a meeting. These rates have been the same since 1992 or before. This will be a staggered adjustment beginning with the first Newly Elected official's terms on Jan. 1, 2022, and the second elected official's terms beginning Jan. 1, 2024. Bill seconded his motion. All voted Aye.

Doug motioned for Kelly to Post the Street Superintendent Position in the paper, seconded by David. All voted Aye. Kelly will also post the job description on Facebook and our Website.

With no further business to discuss, Mechelle motioned to adjourn, seconded by David. All voted Aye.

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President David Snider

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Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem