

**MAY 10, 2022**  
**VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING**

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

Mayor would like to add Police Chief to the Agenda.

Mayor asked for a motion to suspend rules for executive session to discuss an HR position. Bill motioned to suspend rules, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. Bill motioned to go into executive session to discuss an HR position, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. Mayor invited Chief Caskey from Granville, and Attorney Michael King and Will Flautt to join. Bill motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. No action taken.

Mayor shared the process to select the New Police Chief. Sgt. May resigned by email and chose not to interview. Previous Chief Pressdee was asked to join the interviews, but later backed out. Mayor, Chris Shonk, Bill Mohler and Chief Caskey did the interviews. Chief Caskey has expertise in Law Enforcement and Mayor really appreciated his assistance. Attorney Michael King is a Law Director, and Prosecuting Municipal Court Judge and he also assisted in the process. A good process was completed and three individuals were interviewed, based on most experience and education, with a servant mindset. It was a unanimous decision to hire Robert Schons for Police Chief. Mayor asked council to approve the appointment of Robert Schons and Police Chief. Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. Mr. Schons lives in Thornville and introduced himself.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Outdoor Seating:** Sixmo is in the process of finalizing but nothing more to report at this time.

**SBC Update:** Tim is scheduling programming and still waiting on the structural report. Hocking College has extended his contract for 6 months. Tim is planning a Grand Opening in July.

**Blessing Box:** Nothing to report.

**Street Garage doors:** Tabled till next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**\$500 Million Appalachian Proposal:** Mayor Tom stated that we have a unique opportunity to receive up to 15 million dollars to bring to Somerset. Tom would like community input on how to spend the money in our historic area, and to increase parking.

Mayor Tom is easing out of the Mayor position and hopefully retiring by this Fall. Somerset is a special place and he will continue to assist with projects and the create a proposal to the State for the 15 million dollars.

**INTEL SITE:** Mayor stated that Ohio will be the largest Intel Plant with over 2,000 employees. It will be about a 45 min drive from Somerset. We need to think about amenities we want in Somerset to revitalize our Downtown area. Ideas include but not limited to, more Parks and Trails, A Health and fitness center, Genesis could expand for additional treatments.

**1 Mil Tax Levy:** Kelly reported that we currently receive \$21,250 and a replacement levy would increase to \$23,250.00 Bill motioned to request from County Auditor to certify the new valuation of the Replacement Levy, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

**MINUTES:** Kelly to change the Live Stream section to say: Council can't respond to comments during the meeting. Doug motioned to approve the minutes from April 26, 2022 with the change, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

**PAY ORDINANCE 10-22:** Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mayor opened to floor for public comments.

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

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President Eric Emmert

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Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem