

MAY 28, 2024
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Members present: Eric Emmert, Chris Shonk, Mechelle Siemer, Cindy Hayes, Ryan Green and Doug Fehrman. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Kelly Beem and Chief Schons. Greg Litzinger was here for the BPA.

GUEST: Amanda Bollinger from Kleinfelder. Mayor invited Amanda here to discuss with council the projects going on with the water and sewer departments. Amanda informed council they have 5 projects being submitted for funding. The water line extension and improvements and several for the sewer plant. Currently the sewer plant cannot keep up with the sludge removal, and when it rains sludge is being overflowed to the creek. Amanda and her team have identified several issues and have submitted applications for funding. One is a sludge press, another to get the other ditch working, improve gravity and remove a couple lift stations. We have applied for loans to cover the design for the projects because Grants do not cover the design. But the loans can be used as match.

President Emmert stopped the meeting to remind council of the Rules of Council.

SBC UPDATE: Trace reports the Construction Bids came in high. Robertson Construction bid was \$3,985,000.00 and Armcorp Construction Bid was \$5,588,000.00. There is a huge discrepancy in the two bids. Trace asked any council member and Mayor to sit in on a call discussing the differences while reviewing the breakdown on the costs. We will have to eliminate items in the bid proposal as well.

Tom shared a video from John Husted announcing that his office is working with Intel to be the 1st state to be AI ready. The SBC is the first in Ohio to do AI Tech Cred.

POLICE UPDATE: Chief Schons discussed Landlord issues with tenants and the International Property Management codes.

MINUTES: The minutes from May 14, 2024 were reviewed. Doug motioned to accept, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

Downtown Revitalization: Mayors Partnership for Progress awarded \$30,000 to Bob Loversedge to study the businesses in Somerset. He met with The Masons and they would like a new roof and windows. Bob and his team will meet with the other businesses as well. We are hoping to get a grant to allow cost share.

St. Joe's Lake: Mayor will talk with Erik Petersen for a progress report and make sure the Kayak Launch is in the works.

NEW BUSINESS:

Res. 8-24: A resolution to terminate any previous resolution authorizing the application of brine on roads maintained by the Village. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye, except Cindy with a no vote.

PAY ORDINANCE 9-2024: Discussions were held regarding the payments of some SBC invoices. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. Eric, Cindy and Ryan No votes, Mechelle, Doug and Chris with Yes votes. Mayor broke the tie with a Yes voted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Eric motioned to suspend rules for executive session seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. Doug motioned to go into executive according to ORC 731.46 and 121.22 to discuss personnel. Mechelle seconded his motion. All voted Aye. Eric motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Ryan with no action taken. All voted Aye.

Eric motioned to hire Courtney Saum as Support Services for the Village. Courtney will be under Kelly and the Chief and will take over the role of Utility Clerk. This will make her a fulltime employee with a pay increase to \$18.00. Cindy seconded his motion. All voted Aye, except Mechelle with a NO vote.

Doug motioned to adjourn, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

President Eric Emmert

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem