

MAY 9, 2023
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

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

MINUTES: The minutes from April 25 and May 4th were reviewed. Eric motioned to approve the April 25th minutes, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. Bill motioned to approve the May 4th minutes, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

W SHERIDAN ALLEY: Eric is working with Kelly on having AEP, AT&T and Spectrum relocate their pole and lines.

ST RT. 668 PROPERTY: Mayor was very pleased with the number of people that showed up for our Public meeting on May 4th. Lots of ideas were mentioned, and Environmental Design Group is working on the masterplan. We have several farmers here showing interest in farming the land this year. Chris Reichley, Frank Bever and Jason Poorman. They all shared their ideas with council. Will Flautt is to research on the legality of leasing village property. We may have to do an archeology study on the land due to a possible Indian Burial Ground. Tom will be in touch with the three farmers as soon as he knows which direction we can take, or have them come to the next meeting. Mechelle mentioned selling the property or leasing it for 4 H kids.

NEW BUSINESS:

Foundation for Appalachian Mini Grant: SBC submitted a mini grant for \$10,000 for additional Senior Technology. There is a lot of digital information that can help seniors stay healthy.. Mayor thinks we will get \$5,000.00.

Ord. 2-23 An Ordinance to permit and regulate the operation or certain golf cars, utility vehicles, under speed vehicles and all-purpose vehicles in the Village. Discussion was held if we need this ordinance? There have not been any issues. Doug motioned to table this ordinance, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye, except Bill with a NO vote.

ORD. 3-23: An Ordinance prohibiting excessive noise in Somerset: (First Reading) Mechelle motioned to approve the first reading, seconded by Ryan. Roll call: Eric, NO; Doug NO; all other Aye.

ORD. 4-23: An Ordinance adopting the International Property Maintenance Code: (First Reading) Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye, except Bill abstained. Discussion about holding the Landlords responsible for their rental properties.

Annexation Letter to Commissioners: This letter is to start the petition to annex all the Village owned properties outside of our corporation: 668 SR 668 N; 1672 Big Inch Rd; 6805 SR 668; St. Joseph's Lake, and E. Main behind Finck's Nature Preserve. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye, except Mechelle abstained.

Res. 7-23 Tax Lien for 307 S. Columbus St. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Ryan Yzenski got a quote from Stutske Construction to jetting storm sewer drains for 8 hours. The quote was \$2,000.00. Council would like him to get another quote for the next meeting.

PAY ORDINANCE 6-23: Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

MAYORS REPORT:

- **Appalachian Community Grant:** They have already rewarded 50-70 million in grants and have about 430 million left. The Builders Club received 3.1 mil of that. Environmental Design Group is integrating St. Joseph's Lake Masterplan, and the Bike Path. Cost estimates and plans need turned in by November. We have 70 buildings on the National registry. Bringing Historical Buildings up to code. This could help business owners apply for a grant with a portion match from them to reinvest in their properties, (Roof, Structures, plumbing, electric, etc.) There is also free technical assistance available for other projects. This will need submitted by Friday. Doug motioned to approve applying for the free technical assistance Grant, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.
- **Rural Action** has been a big help in Somerset with the Farmers Market. They received a big grant for Food expansion with half going to Farm Producers (up to 100k). They potentially have plans for a food incubator in Somerset.
- **Mayor spoke on extending waterlines to Winegardner Rd.** BPA will have to pursue this with Mitch Altier. Kelly showed pictures of inside the Gay St. Water Tank and said additional work is needing done inside.
- **TAVERN, HOCKING COLLEGE: Opportunities for Funding.** IBI Kevin Wood has been selected for Tech Services providers Plan, Summit, Sheridan, Gay, ETC for street lights.
- **There is a Home School** moving to Somerset from Baltimore Ohio in the Old Dog Grooming building. Helps parents how to teach their children.
- **We need a comprehensive study** for Sewer for the Village to expand to B&K
- **Forestry Trees** There is a Tree Grant due in June. Ann Bonner thinks if communities join together there may not be any match. Hazardous trees are a concern for the Village
- **Inflation Reduction Grant:** To upgrade Electronic Charging Stations, and Micro-grids. Grids could power our water and sewer plants, and cut back the electric charges.
- **Director Appalachian Children's Coalition:** Tom spoke with the Director for Appalachian Children and he talked to Bill Noll at Holy Trinity about having a school-based clinic Tom will follow up with Bill to see if he is interested.
- **SOPEC email:** The energy aggregate is 16% less than AEP rates.

Mayor asked for a motion to suspend rules and go into executive session to discuss personnel and Real Estate. Bill motioned to suspend, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. Mechelle motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. Doug motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye. NO ACTION TAKEN.

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

President Eric Emmert

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem