

NOVEMBER 29, 2022
SOMERSET VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

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

GUEST: Erin Stevens from SOPEC: Erin talked about the cost savings with their aggregation program of around 22%. A savings of \$5.64 per kw. She presents the Village with a Green Power Community Award for exceeding renewable energy.

POLICE UPDATE: Chief Schons talked about the new hours for the officers so spread out coverage. He also supported the Noise Ordinance and the Golf Cart Ordinance as Kelly has written. He is working with Nash Imaging on a New Police sign for the office, plus additional parking signs for around the square. Approximate cost is \$1,700.00. Eric motioned to approve the signs, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye. Chief stated he needed new tires for his cruiser, which will be \$1100.00. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye. He also would like to pass an ordinance allowing his Officers to patrol and enforce laws at St. Joseph's Lake, The Reservoir, Village Garage and Water Plant. Plus other Village owned property. Kelly is to look for a previous ordinance stating this.

SBC UPDATE: Mayor explained the Joint Use Agreement with Ohio University. This allows OU to use our facility free of charge, and also we need this to collect our Capital Grant money. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye, except Bill with a No vote. Tim has approximately 80 hours left of his contract with Hocking College. Tom is working with Trace Johnson on several more grant opportunities through Job and Family Services. The Bluway agreement will be discussed at the next meeting.

MINUTES: Eric motioned to approve the minutes from November 2, 2022, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

Eric motioned to suspend rules for executive session, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. Eric motioned to go into executive discussion to discuss Personnel, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. Bill motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. No action was taken.

ORD. 6-22 Authorizing Mayor to sign agreement with City of Cleveland: This agreement for the General Collection of Municipal Income Tax which permits City of Cleveland administer all provisions of law, ordinance and regulation relating to the levying and collection of an income tax for the Village. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Municipal Income Tax Ord. 7-22: An Ordinance to establish an income tax and to create Chapter 170 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Somerset, Perry County Ohio, regarding Municipal Income Tax and declaring an Emergency. This will allow the Village to collect a 1% Income Tax from residents and people who work in the Village. This excludes Retirement pensions, disability, etc. Only earned income. Everyone must file with the City of Cleveland even if they are excluded. This is an emergency passage today to allow it to become effective Jan. 1, 2023. The Council will still have the normal 3 readings to hear comments from the public. A motion is needed to approve Ord. 7-22 and declaring an emergency subject to tabling it again in both December meetings, but have committed to the Ordinance. Eric motioned to approve Ordinance 7-22 and declaring an emergency with reviews at the next two council meetings. Chris seconded his motion. Eric, Bill, Ryan and Chris voted Aye. Doug with a No vote. The motion passed.

Streetscape: The sidewalks are done and the rest will be completed in the Spring. There have been lots of very nice comments about it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Property Insurance: The renewal of our property insurance with Wichert premium is up about 10% from \$35,000 to \$39,000. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

Appalachian Community Grant Res. 14-22: A resolution to support the Somerset Builder's Club Grant Program "At work in Appalachia Initiative". Eric motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye, except Bill abstained.

WIN-Waste Approval is needed for a 1-year contract with a slight increase. Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. Next year, we may need to put this out to bids again.

2023 Budget and 2023 Permanent Appropriations: Bill motioned to approve the 2023 Budget and have Kelly send to County Auditor. Upon approval from Drew Cannon, Bill motions to approve the permanent Appropriations, seconded by Eric. All voted Aye.

2023 Employee Salaries: Most Council members would like to have raises based on performance. This was tabled till next meeting.

The employees are requesting to have the full 11 Federal Holidays given to them instead of the current 7. They also are requesting 3 days for Bereavement. Doug motioned to approve the additional Holidays and the 3 bereavement days for only immediate family (father, mother, brother, sister, grandparent or grandchild), seconded by Eric. All voted Aye, except Bill with a no vote.

PAY ORDINANCE 21-22: Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

October Bank Reconciliation and Financials: Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. Kelly will check interest rates for our savings account and compare to other banks and inform Council.

No further business was discussed.

Eric Emmert, President

Kelly Beem, Fiscal Officer