

OCTOBER 28, 2025
VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING

Members present: Doug Fehrman, Mechelle Siemer, Ryan Green and Chris Shonk. Also present were Mayor Emmert, Kelly Beem, Will Flautt, and Chief Ross. BPA members Greg Litzinger and Jim Wilson were here as well.

Doug motioned to excuse Cindy Hayes from the meeting, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Mayor started with Greg and Jim. Asked for an update and what they want to do with our engineers Kleinfelder: Greg gave a brief history on all the projects that we waited over a year to year and a half on. We have lost funding opportunities because of the Kleinfelder delays. Bennet at Kleinfelder presented to BPA a few weeks ago preliminary designs for water and sewer. Greg isn't comfortable with the rushed plans, and feels the need to terminate their contracts with us. We have EPA loans due Jan 1, 2026, that we have no final designs, or funding sources. We need to contact EPA and ask for an extension.

Mayor asked Jim and Greg for an update on the Sewer Operator position: Greg said we still do not have an Operator on record, but is still looking to either contract with someone or hire an Operator. EPA is talking with Greg on the situation.

Mayor talked about the need to hire an Administrator especially since Greg is leaving the first of the year and Karen is resigning. That leaves Jim alone to handle it all until replacements are brought in. Council agreed with Mayor that supervision from an Administrator will be beneficial to the Village. Especially to keep projects moving forward. Greg admitted that an Administrator would be good as well.

Guest David Marsh: Mr. Marsh asked to have sidewalks installed to Family Dollar and his property. He is also very concerned with the guard rail at the culvert. Mayor explained that we have a culvert project in the works and will try to include the guard rail posts. The sidewalks are not currently being considered at this time. He would like to make his own walkway across the culvert and hopes that when we do the culvert repair, we don't damage his property.

MINUTES: The minutes from September 23, and Oct 18th were reviewed. Doug motioned to approve both minutes, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

MAYOR REPORTS:

1. There is a meeting with Josh Otworth from ODOT next week for more improvements to the square, new light poles and flashing beacons.
2. The FD is tapping into the sewer lines next week, connect the storm sewer. They will have the alley closed for about a week.
3. Eric talked with Chasity about the SBC. The engineer found trusses that were bowed, the walls pulling away from the floors and other issues. They should begin replacing and repair the roof soon.
4. Eric mentioned the need to get a Property Maintenance Code for the Village. Properties are being run down and there isn't anything we can do about it. Ryan mentioned to have Chad Wilkins come to a meeting and discuss ways to improve the appearance of properties.
5. Eric asked if anyone thought the need to cancel Trick or Treat night on Thursday due to the rain. Doug motioned to keep the date as is, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

CHIEF REPORTS: Chief Ross is still looking for Officers. He has a guy that has worked here before that may be interested. He also has a guy that will finish the police academy in December he is interested in hiring. He currently is working 2 child abuse cases in the Village. He has been splitting his work hours up a bit to cover some nights and weekends.

FISCAL OFFICER REPORTS:

1. **Pay Ordinance 16-25:** Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.
2. **September Bank Reconciliation and Fund Status:** Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.
3. **2026 Employee Wages:** Kelly gave council percentages of increases and showed what each employee is currently at. They will review and decide at the next council meeting.
4. **2026 Budget:** Mechelle motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.
5. **CD Maturity:** We have a Cd that matured last week. Kelly recommended a 12 year renewal at 3.50% APR. Ryan motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.
6. **Ohio Deferred Compensation:** Kelly stated a rep from ODC will be here Friday at 10:30 if anyone is interested.

OLD BUSINESS: Ryan received a quote from Nate Brown for the driveway and parking lot. We are still waiting on the survey to be done.

NEW BUSINESS: Kelly announced we are having a Village wide clean up. Four dumpsters will be placed around the village. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of them. Clean their yards, houses, garages. Etc. This will start on Oct. 31.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

1. **RES. 24-25: A resolution authorizing the Village of Somerset to participate in the ODOT grass, weed and natural growth removal program pursuant to H.B. 54, and requesting assistance from the Ohio Department of Transportation.** Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.
2. **RES. 26-25: A resolution to amend the annual appropriations and apply for an amended certificate.** Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.
3. **Res. 27-25: A resolution to place a tax lien at 107 S. Columbus St.** Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.
4. **Ord. 3-25: An ordinance accepting annexation of two tracts of real estate. Third and Final Reading:** Ryan motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Public Note: The next council meeting will be Nov. 25th.

No further business was discussed.

Mechelle motioned to adjourn, Ryan seconded. All voted Aye.

President Ryan Green

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem