

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**  
**VILLAGE OF SOMERSET COUNCIL MEETING**

**Members present:** Mechelle Siemer, Doug Fehrman, Chris Shonk, Bill Mohler and Ryan Green. Also present were Mayor Johnson, Chief Schons, Will Flautt and Kelly Beem. Guests included Rick Strohl, Keith Neel, Karen Riffle and Julie Paxton.

**MINUTES:** Doug motioned to approve the minutes from Sept. 12, 2023, seconded by Ryan. All voted Aye.

**POLICE UPDATE:** Chief Schons read his stat sheet. He said the Somerset Police Dept are ahead of all Law Enforcement in Perry County according to the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board, Law Enforcement Certification report. Discussion was held on the Blue Line Solutions Speed Enforcement cameras for the school zones only. This would only be used during the restricted hours. Council would like Chief to look into the radar signs that show your speed limit. More discussion on this at the next meeting.

**SBC UPDATE:** Trace Johnson gave an overview of the Builders club events. The robotics summer camps were a huge success. They will be having Senior Citizens Technology classes. They have developed a technology curriculum for health-enhancing technology for people 55 and over. The Builders club will also have Tech Cred courses that focus on artificial intelligence and workplace productivity this fall. They also are offering after school programming in partnership with Intel, and a new 4H club is in the works. The remodeling plans are coming along. Previously, council approved to repair the backside of the roof where it has been leaking. Instead of a full repair which was approved the architects decided it would be a waste of money due to the structure of the building. Trace received a quote for \$7,000 with a 1-year warranty to just fix the areas that have the leak. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Callahan Property:** Mayor introduced realtor Kevin Speert. He and Kevin walked the property today. Kevin thinks we should sell it with 10 acres to be profitable. It does need some updating inside the house, but we could sell it as is without doing any remodel. The Village will need to advertise this property in the paper for 5 consecutive weeks, before we can actually list it. Kevin said he could put a sign out front saying "Coming Soon", but not have any showings till after the 5-week period. We also need to start the annexation talks with the Township Trustees. Doug motioned to start talking and take appropriate actions with the Township Trustees, seconded by Mechelle. All voted Aye.

Mayor asked for a motion to suspend rules to go into executive session to discuss Real Estate transactions. Bill motioned to suspend, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye. Doug motioned to go into executive session to discuss Real Estate Transactions, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. Mayor invited Rick Strohl and Julie Paxton from the Planning Committee to join. Bill motioned to return to regular session, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye. No action taken.

**Res. 15-23: To extend benefits to regular part-time employees.** This would give our regular part-time employees who work here Holiday pay, and Vacation and Sick pay after their first full year of employment. They would be paid based on their normal work week hours. This excludes seasonal employees. Chris motioned to approve, seconded by Doug. All voted Aye.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Rules of Council:** Mayor reviewed the rules of council. He would like a couple changes to it. This is the first reading. Council will review and if they have any questions, changes or concerns, they are to contact Kelly by the next meeting.

**Hunting Permit for David Henderson:** David gets this permit every year to hunt at the reservoir. We have never had a problem. Council approved the permit.

**Picnic Tables:** The Christmas committee asked Mayor to purchase foldable picnic tables for special events. Tom will look into purchasing some tables through the builders club.

**Win-Waste Contract:** Kelly presented a 1-year contract for waste removal with no price increase for a year. Council asked for a three-year contract next year, but Bill motioned to approve the 1-year contract, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

**2024 Employee Wages:** Kelly is working to complete the budget for 2024. Council will review this at the next meeting.

**Res. 16-23:** A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR JOHNSON TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE EMERALD NECKLACE FUNDING. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

**NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION:** The aggregation will be on the ballot in November. There are signs from SOPEC if anyone would like to take one.

**ODNR:** Tom received a letter from ODNR that we have been awarded \$8,160 for the Storybook Trails. James for SBC wrote the grant for the Builders Club. Michael Rosen is a local children books writer and will be writing for the trails.

**RURAL ACTION:** This is an agreement for community development services that will be performed by Rural Action. They hired Eric Peterson for 16 hours a week. They are entitled to payment in the amount of \$117,000 over the course of 2 years, which will be paid through the Grant. Doug motioned to approve, seconded by Bill. All voted Aye.

**PAY ORDINANCE 15-23:** Bill motioned to approve, seconded by Chris. All voted Aye.

**INCOME TAX COLLECTION:** Kelly shared that in August we received \$27,240.00. Which takes us to total of over \$109,000 so far this year. Tom wants to have discussion on what we plan to do with this, possibly putting some back for reserves.

With no further business to discuss, Doug motioned to adjourn, and voted Aye.

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Mayor Tom Johnson

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Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem