

**Town of Somerset**  
**Public Budget Hearing, Special**  
**Town Meeting of the Electors & November**  
**Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 7, 2018**  
(Not official until approved at next meeting)

**7:30 p.m. - 2019 Public Budget Hearing**

Chairman Schachtner called the 2019 Public Budget Hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. Present: Witzmann, Rauch, Plourde, Schachtner. Absent: Demulling. Printed handouts of the proposed 2019 budget were available, as well as a detailed review by Schachtner. Mill rate to decrease slightly. No public comments. *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Witzmann to close the Public Budget Hearing at 7:45 pm. Motion carried.*

**7:45 p.m. - Special Town Meeting of the Electors**

Chairman Schachtner called the Special Town Meeting of Electors to order at 7:45 pm. Schachtner, Plourde, Rauch, Demulling present; Demulling absent. Residents present: Lynn Cook, Lenny Germain, Wally Neumann, David Schachtner, Jason Crotty, Ed Schachtner, Doug Plourde, Tim Witzmann, Larry Rauch, Jeri Koester.

- Approval of 2019 highway expenditures in the amount of \$679,395. *Motion by Lenny Germain, seconded by Lynn Cook to approve the 2019 highway expenditures of \$679,395. Motion carried. 10 years, 0 nays.*
- Adopt 2018 Town tax levy to be paid in 2019 in the amount of \$738,127. *Motion by Lynn Cook, seconded by David Schachtner to adopt the 2018 Town tax levy of \$738,127. Motion carried. 10 years, 0 nays.*
- Establish the compensation of the elected Town officials for the terms of office to begin April 2019 (no change). *Motion by Lynn Cook, seconded by David Schachtner to establish the compensation of the elected Town officials for the terms of office as presented. Motion carried. 10 years, 0 nays.*
- To authorize the Town Board to hire Town officers as employees of the Town for part-time work (snowplowing) and set the hourly rate of pay. *Motion by Lenny Germain, seconded by Lynn Cook to authorize the Town Board to hire Town officers as part time employees with the rate of pay set at \$20.00 per hour with no benefits. Motion carried. 10 years, 0 nays.*

*Motion by Jason Crotty, seconded by Lenny Germain to adjourn the Special Town Meeting of Electors at 7:50 pm. Motion carried.*

**8:00 p.m. - November Town Board Meeting**

Chairman Schachtner called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Present were Witzmann, Rauch, Demulling, Plourde and Schachtner. Schachtner announced the meeting is being recorded. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Witzmann to approve the agenda. Motion carried. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Input:** Witzmann thanked Koester for the effort and planning with the General Election.

**Clerk's & Treasurer's Reports:** *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Rauch to approve the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Plourde, seconded by Demulling to approve the Special Town Board meeting minutes from October 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Rauch to approve the October financial report. Motion carried.*

**Building Inspector Report:** Four new houses, two solar panels, one deck, three sheds/garages. *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Plourde to approve the October Building Inspector's report. Motion carried.*

**Animal Control Report:** *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Demulling to approve the October Animal Control Officer report with two response calls. Motion carried.*

**Fire/Rescue Commission Report:** Plourde read Belisle's October report which consisted of 30 calls, 312 calls so far in 2018, compared to 290 calls in 2017. There was a single family structure fire on 72<sup>nd</sup> Street which was a total loss but no injuries. Discussion on the election, parking, not to block fire hall door, flow of traffic and training. *Motion by Rauch, seconded by Demulling to approve the Fire/Rescue Commission report. Motion carried.*

**Somerset Library & Haunted Hall Event Update/Rita Lawson:** Lawson apologized for missing the Public Input section of the meeting, due to her attendance at a Library meeting tonight, and asked for permission to speak. Lawson informed the Library is holding a silent auction for the building expansion fund on November 29<sup>th</sup> with a lot of very nice items. Lawson also wanted to let everyone know the Haunted Hall event at the Old Town Hall on Halloween was very well attended and a success.

**Parks, Rec & Planning Commission Report-2 Lot CSM for Dave & Melinda Marson/Ed Flanum Northland Surveying at 1884 County Road I:** Shared driveway off of County Road I already approved by St. Croix County Hwy. Dept. *Motion by Rauch, seconded by Witzmann to approve the 2 Lot CSM at 1884 County Road I for Dave & Melinda Marson as presented. Motion carried.* Park fee has been paid.

**Request for Conditional Use Permit for Contractor's Storage Yard & Non-Metallic Mining in Rural Residential Zone for Tom & Kim Belisle/All Excavating & Belisle Sand & Gravel at 489-192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue:** **Conditional Use Permit:** Planning Commission recommended approval with the condition there is no burning of construction debris. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Plourde to recommend approval of the Conditional Use Permit for a Contractor's Storage Yard at 489-192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue for Tom & Kim Belisle/All Excavating & Belisle Sand & Gravel with the recommendation to St. Croix County that there be a condition of no burning of construction debris. Motion carried.*

**Non-Metallic Mining Permit:** Planning Commission recommended approval as presented. *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Rauch to recommend approval to St. Croix County for a Non-Metallic Mining Permit in Rural Residential Zone for Tom & Kim Belisle/All Excavating & Belisle Sand & Gravel at 489-192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue as presented. Motion carried.*

**Adoption of 2019-2023 Park & Recreation Plan by Resolution 2018-03:** *Motion by Rauch, seconded by Witzmann to approve Resolution 2018-03 Acceptance of Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan 2019-2023. Motion carried.*

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business-Stacy Einck, Coordinator for Run Stillwater, Request to use Andersen Scout Camp Road and County Road V for Race Event on Saturday, July 27, 2019:** Stacy Einck distributed information pertaining to the Run Stillwater St. Croix Crossing Half Marathon scheduled for Saturday, July 27, 2019 (7:00 am start time for race) with a portion of the race using County Road V and Andersen Scout Camp Road in Town of Somerset. The majority of the race will be held within Town of St. Joseph. Einck stated the race is expected to draw 1,500 runners. There is a plan for cones on the roads, patrol by law enforcement, as well as Run Stillwater's own Marshalls, EMS and volunteers at start/finish lines, water stations and assisting with clean up. Einck stated there is a potential for a 5K race, but the 5K does not involve Town of Somerset roads. Run Stillwater is administered by volunteers. In exchange for their volunteer time, a donation is given to the groups. Witzmann suggested Einck contact the Somerset School District to request volunteers. Einck stated once the permission is given, their group will reach out to various organizations. The race is held rain or shine but lightening would delay the race. Demulling asked for a report on the turnout afterwards. Schachtner suggested a one-year trial basis. *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Rauch to approve the use Andersen Scout Camp Road and County Road V for the Run Stillwater St. Croix Crossing Half Marathon on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 on a one-year trial basis. Motion carried.*

**Adoption of 2019 Budget:** *Motion by Rauch, seconded by Plourde to adopt the 2019 budget. Motion carried.*

**Village of Somerset – Proposal / Request for Assistance in Funding Parks:** Postponed until December 5<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting.

**Update on Somerset School District Community Planning Committee:** Witzmann gave an update on the Community Planning Committee meeting from November 1<sup>st</sup> held at the Somerset High School. Discussion topics for community survey and financial information: Security estimate of 1,850,000; maintenance estimate of \$13,550,000, site improvements estimate \$4,800,000, programming changes estimate of \$7,600,000, athletics & activities estimate of \$6,800,000; auditorium estimate of \$12,000,000 with the sum of all estimates \$46,600,000. Community survey will go out. Discussion on proposing an operational referendum question as well. The operational referendum question and bonding question must be two separate questions. Witzmann suggested anyone interested should go out to the Somerset School District website, under Community Planning Committee link for more information.

**Consideration & Review of Fire Dept. Brush Truck:** Discussion on the brush truck being ordered by the Fire Department earlier this week without the Town's 2019 budget being approved and without review of the specifications and options by the Fire/Rescue Commission and approval from the Town Board. Demulling questioned the process and said he is baffled that the brush truck was ordered without approval. Travis Belisle responded Bartt Palmer gave the authorization from the Village and Doug Plourde gave the authorization from the Town. Schachtner stressed he'd like to see specifications and quotes from different dealerships and local businesses be given the opportunity to price the truck for consideration rather than the Fire Dept. ordering the truck from a dealer in Oconomowac. Schachtner stated the ordering of the brush truck did not go through the proper process because the Fire Rescue Commission ordinance states the Fire Rescue Commission is supposed to have a meeting to review the equipment specs and make a recommendation to the Boards. Schachtner reiterated the Fire Rescue Commission has not met, he has not seen truck specs and no Town Board approval was given for the purchase. Demulling stated the numbers at the last joint meeting in September were for budgeting purposes only and not approving the purchase of the brush truck; just because the money is allocated in the budget does not mean that the purchase has been approved. Belisle stated the truck has been ordered. Belisle added he was informed from the dealer of a price increase. Belisle stated the Fire Dept. will pay for the truck with the Village and leave the Town out of it. Schachtner stated the Town Board is responsible for the taxpayer's money and it is up to the Town Board to delegate the spending of money. After much discussion, Jason Crotty proposed a Fire/Rescue Commission meeting be called to make the purchase transparent and review the truck prices and specs and then bring the issue back to the next Town Board meeting for consideration of the purchase. The Town Board agreed to proceed with Crotty's suggestion and place the topic on the December agenda.

**Transportation & Facilities Committee Report:** 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue project has been completed and road salt has been ordered. Sterling truck has new tires. Demulling requested more mowing be done, especially with the arm mower, before winter. Fire Hall garage heater has been installed and the offices/meeting room have been painted by Hurd Maintenance. Witzmann discussed painting the exterior of the Town Hall and the uppers of the roof area with Hurd Maintenance/Dale Germain who advised against painting, as he felt the paint would not adhere. Discussion on the Town Hall being painted several years ago by Hurd. Witzmann will get some written prices and options for the exterior from Roger Rivard & Dale Germain for review after the first of the year.

**Announcements & Adjourn:** Cluster Meeting for County Zoning Comprehensive Update at Town of Star Prairie, Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 6-8:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jeri Koester, Clerk