

**Town of Somerset & Village of Somerset  
with Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 26, 2018**

Town Chairman Schachtner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Present: John Melvin, Kim Putz, Tony Lueck, Ali Peterson, Bartt Palmer for the Village. Ed Schachtner, Doug Plourde, Shane Demulling, Tim Witzmann and Larry Rauch for the Town. Dave Wolner from the Fire/Rescue Commission. Fire Dept. members present were Travis Belisle, Jason Crotty and Sarah Kobs. Absent: Ron Hill, Jim Chandler, Rita Lawson, Wally Neumann and Jon Mitchell. Also present: Tom Heintz, Darryl Wendt & Brian Duggan from Town of Star Prairie. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda & Public Input:** *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Melvin to approve the agenda. Motion carried.* There was no public input.

**Minutes from Previous Joint Meeting:** *Motion by Witzmann, second by Lueck to approve the July 25, 2018 joint meeting minutes. Motion carried.*

**Old Business-80<sup>th</sup> Street Jurisdiction/River Hills Plat:** It has been determined that the Village of Somerset owns the portion of 80<sup>th</sup> Street that borders the River Hills 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition-new plat that the Town of Somerset was concerned about. Discussion on how much of 80<sup>th</sup> Street the Town of Star Prairie owns. Heintz requested Melvin have the Village engineer contact Town of Star Prairie engineer to get the part of 80<sup>th</sup> Street that Town of Star Prairie owns transferred to the Village.

**Apple River Committee of Board Members, Citizen Reps & Business Reps:** Billy Raleigh was in attendance and stated there was a river cleaning on July 30<sup>th</sup> with various people from three out of the four campgrounds. On August 22, River's Edge, Hideaway & Apple River Family Campground met to discuss the following issues:

- extra signage on the river next year for customers
- a large group cleaning annually in coordination with Xcel Energy to drop the river as much as possible for a more thorough cleaning
- discuss w/police and patrol next Spring to have a larger police presence at the rapids
- all agreed that tubers should be stopped at the Village Park area to prevent floaters from ending up down river
- a person would be hired to direct floaters to their pick-up spot

Schachtner questioned if the Boards would like to form a governmental committee or if this could be handled by the parks. Plourde stated it would be nice to see all the parks participate and let them handle it. Billy Raleigh added the group also cleaned up the graffiti on the bridges and cut brush too. Melvin reached out to the Village's legal team and they advised the proposed committee would have no authority, therefore, it would open the municipality to liability and the Village isn't interested in being part of an Apple River Committee. Melvin suggested discussing problems at joint meetings, if any, rather than having monthly meetings. Witzmann proposed all four parks work together and put some agreement together to set some guidelines and expectations to maintain the river and the grounds. Plourde stated the only authority on the parks the Town has is the tubing license. Plourde added that regulating the parks is challenging and it is much better if the parks can do this on their own, rather than a government committee handling it. Schachtner commented the goal is to get and keep the river clean and if the parks can handle this going forward we should let them take care of it, but if issues arise, we can take it up again. Witzmann suggested Raleigh keep the concerned citizens informed, if at all possible. After much discussion, the consensus was to not form an Apple River Clean Up Committee.

**Excess Pension Funds:** Belisle stated the amount is just under \$10,000 and this is money that was already designated to pension. Fire Rescue Commission proposed taking the years of service for each member and distribute additional funds to their account next year based on their years of service. Plourde reiterated the years of service would determine the portion of the pension that would be contributed and seemed like the best solution. *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Lueck to approve the excess pension funds be put into each member's pension, divided up by the number of years of service for each member. Motion carried.*

**New Business-Financial Report for 2018:** Discussion on worker's compensation insurance. The printout is for the first three quarters and there is still one more quarter to go, so some accounts will be spent down in the fourth quarter, such as fire inspections and fire prevention/open house. Concert payroll was \$762 short and Belisle suggested doing a separate payroll for concert hours and regular hours. *Motion by Rauch, seconded by Melvin to approve the third quarter financial report as presented. Motion carried.*

**2019 Budget – Review & Consider Approval:** Belisle went through the proposed budget with the Town's increase 3.24% and the Village's increase of 3.27%. Increase in utilities and I am Responding line items, otherwise, most line items remain the same. *Motion by Melvin, seconded by Plourde to approve the 2019 Fire/Rescue budget of \$188,485 with the Town's 2% dues of \$19,154 and the Village's 2% dues of \$9,190 coming off the total costs to be assessed resulting in the balance of \$160,141 and the final assessment to the Town \$84,513 (55%) and the Village \$75,628 (45%). Motion carried*

**5-Year Equipment Plan:** Belisle stated 2019 brush truck and 2022 tanker are on the 5 year plan.

**Research New Brush Truck:** Chasis: Ford F350 \$31,060 from Ewald/Oconomowoc with Cox Motors pricing at \$31,792. Dodge Ram quote \$33,016 Ewald-Hudson Ford did not respond, Chevy cannot get 3500 anymore only GM 2500 at \$27,880. Ford appears to be the best choice. **Equipment on the Truck:** Foreman Fire- all new equipment total is \$36,700 and to reuse existing equipment total is \$29,995. Plourde asked if the truck is sized to fit in the building and Belisle stated the box was shortened to fit, not the cab. \$67,760 would be the information for Town and Village to put into their 2019 budget for planning with new equipment and \$61,055 for used equipment, no action taken on approving purchase.

**Grants Received & Available Grants:** Possible US Fish & Wildlife and Bremer Bank grants. A donation of a rescue CPR plunger unit and two rescue pods by the Duggan family.

**Department Activities:** Amdahl lock maintenance this fall. New sign has been installed.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next joint meeting was set for Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 7 pm at the Village Hall.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Lueck, seconded by Melvin to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Jeri Koester,  
Town Clerk