

Town of Somerset
Town Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2024
(Not official until approved at next meeting.)

Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda: Chair Schachtner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Demulling, Germain, Witzmann, Plourde and Schachtner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Witzmann to approve the agenda. Motion carried.*

Public Input: Bill Lawson stated Wally Neumann mowed the Parnell Prairie Preserve and did an excellent job. December 11th there will be a meeting at the Somerset Library on a newly started historical society. Lawson stated call Nancy Vanasse if interested in attending. Byron Patterson commented he'd like to see something done about the noise/concerts at the Wet Barn next door. Schachtner stated he did a site visit at the time of Patterson's call and did not think the music was very loud. Plourde suggested sending a letter to the landowner. Patterson stated the music played until 1 am and the noise could be heard inside the house. Demulling stated he wanted to thank the Clerk and Election Staff for the wonderful job at the Election. Demulling also wanted to thank Witzmann for all the work and coordination of the playground at Parnell Prairie Preserve.

Clerk's & Treasurer's Reports: *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Witzmann to approve the October 2nd & October 16th Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Demulling to approve the October Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.*

Building Inspector Report: *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Germain to approve the October Building Inspector Report. Motion carried.*

Animal Control Officer Report & Change in Impound Facility: *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Germain to approve the October Animal Control Officer Report & new impound facility will be Coco's Heart Dog Rescue in Somerset. Motion carried.*

Fire/Rescue Commission Report: Plourde read the October report. 440 calls for 2024 compared to 377 calls last year. 1992 Tender was sold on WI Surplus Auction for \$12,600.

Parnell Prairie Preserve Update: Playground equipment is finished. The back nine holes are completed. Parking lot has been expanded with 12-14 more spots. Witzmann suggested an Open House in the Spring. Demulling asked if the disc golf project members could get a burning permit to burn the brush piles. Board had no objection to that this winter.

Parks, Rec & Plan Commission Report - GV Investments LLC/Rich Pakonen - Doug Zahler Auth Consulting-3 Lot CSM off 210th Avenue & Driveway Agreement: Doug Zahler presented the 3 lot CSM and shared driveway declaration of covenants for Lot #1 & Lot #3. Joint driveway is already permitted and installed. *Motion by Germain, seconded by Demulling to approve the 3 Lot CSM and Declaration of Covenant on the Joint Driveway Agreement for Lots #1 & #3 as presented. Motion carried. Plourde abstained.*

William Field-Conditional Use Permit Application for Contractor's Storage Yard/Dean's Concrete Pumping Equipment at 1719 County Road I, Parcel#032-2011-95-000: Discussion on application for Contractor's Storage Yard for 1719 County Road I for William Field-Dean's Concrete Pumping. Field is requesting on his application #2 he would like to use the front 5 acres adjacent to County Road I for parking vehicles, trailers and equipment. Field participated on speakerphone due to illness. Board questioned whether this would extend to the piece that is separated by the Hwy. 64 corridor with access off 170th Avenue. Field stated the land accessing off 170th Avenue is not included in his request. Witzmann suggested screening along County Road I. Schachtner stated that there is an ad posted about storing other people's campers/equipment on the property and that is another issue. The storage of other people's campers/equipment and not the business

equipment is another request. Town Board's consensus is no other storage than the business equipment owned by Field. Discussion on the easement/future road and keeping any trees out of future road right-of-way. *Motion by Germain, seconded by Witzmann to recommend to St. Croix County approval of a Conditional Use Permit for Dean's Concrete Pumping/William D. Field (Parcel#032-2011-95-000) with these conditions:*

- *that only the front 5 acres along County Road I be used for parking Field's business vehicles, trailers and equipment and not the entire 20 acres*
- *No parking of any equipment on the piece of land separated by Hwy. 64 corridor access off 170th Avenue*
- *only Field's equipment for his business can be stored and no other storage of other people's campers and equipment*
- *screening/a buffer of trees on the north side and along County Road I out of road right of way is requested*
- *no replacement of mobile home. as current mobile home is grandfathered in, but if removed a new mobile home cannot be brought in*

Old Business: None.

New Business-CJ Randazzo-273 Andersen Scout Camp Rd. Survey Re-Established, Gate & Fence

Location: Fence is in Town road right-of-way 8" on one side and 5' on the other. Excess road right-of-way in that area on CSM. Discussion on looking into deeding excess road right-of-way back to property owner as Town does not need any more than 80' road right-of-way. Lights have been adjusted downward. Germain brought up driveway slope. Witzmann stated two percent backslope from 50' back from center of road. Driveway slope should be adequate. Randazzo agreed to cover the cost of a survey/deed if excess road right-of-way can be obtained to correct the fence issue. Board consensus Town will check into the process and work with Randazzo.

Acceptance of Town of Somerset's 2025 Budget: *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Demulling to accept the Town's 2025 Budget. Motion carried.*

Consider Increasing Park Fee for New Lots: Witzmann created a comparison on neighboring municipalities for park and other fees. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Demulling to increase the park fee to \$700 per new lot. Witzmann-yes, Demulling-yes, Germain-no, Plourde-no, Schachtner-no. Motion failed 3 to 2. More discussion. Motion by Plourde, seconded by Germain to increase the Park fee to \$600 per new lot. Witzmann-yes, Plourde-yes, Germain-yes and Schachtner-yes, Demulling-no. Motion carried 4 to 1.*

Transportation & Facilities Committee-205th Avenue Road Project-Progress Update & Issues:

Schachtner stated he has been in communication with Jewell engineer, Lindsay Severson for acquisitions.

Equipment-New Truck Update: Chassis will be ready for pick up next week at River States Truck and Trailer. Material on warranty options was presented for Board to take home and review. No decision on warranty needs to be made until truck is put into service.

5 Yr. Facilities Plan/Task List: Witzmann recommended an annual inspection of overhead garage doors, furnaces and air conditioner. Two furnaces have been replaced with one remaining in Fire Hall. Witzmann went through the spreadsheet on various repairs and maintenance items.

Announcements & Adjourn: Schachtner adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Jeri Koester,
Clerk