

**Town of Somerset
Town Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 5, 2025**
(Not official until approved at next meeting.)

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

Public Input: Brian Smestad introduced himself and stated he was running for St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge as Judge Vlack is retiring. Smestad spoke on his experience, career, and trial experience. He reminded everyone to vote on April 1st and asked for their support.

Shawn Anderson, St. Croix Board member for District 2 stated Marv's Trailers will fall under a Land Use Permit for operation and Adam Koves wants to sublease his property to Marv's. Under the new guidelines, the use was not permitted with C1 or Land Use Permit, however, it will now be allowed. Concern that the Towns will not be able to comment on uses in their Town. Schachtner stated it would be nice if the Town gets notified. Witzmann replied the Land Use Permit should be selectively used.

Marty Siebert, resident on 40th Street, spoke that he has an issue with neighbor to the west burning brush. Siebert stated he is on the hill and the past two years; it has become an issue with these large brush fires. His biggest concern is the fires are left unattended. Ash has been a problem accumulating on cars and deck. DNR property is contiguous to the property where the burning is occurring, and Siebert stated it could get out of control.

Clerk and Treasurer's Report: *Motion by Germain, seconded by Plourde to approve the February 5, 2025, Town Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Plourde to approve the February Financial Report. Motion carried.*

Building Inspector's Report: *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Plourde to approve the February Building Inspector's Report. Motion carried.*

Animal Control Officer's Report: *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Germain to approve the February Animal Control Officer's Report. Motion carried.*

Fire/Rescue Commission Report: Plourde read the Fire Rescue Commission Report for the month of February. The total calls for February were 42. To date, the total calls are 88 compared to 90 calls for the same time last year.

Parks, Rec and Planning Commission Report- Request to Rezone from C1 to C3 or CUP/LUP for Contractor's Storage Yard for MSAS WIVI Properties LLC/Adam Koves at 493 County Road VV: Parcel #032-2018-50-000 at 493 County Road VV by MSAS WIVI/Adam Koves-St. Croix County Board has changed the guidelines as Shawn Anderson explained and the use will now be allowed by a Land Use Permit so no action by the Town is needed. Shawn Anderson clarified that the only use that will be allowed on Kove's parcel is trailers/dealership.

New Business-Review, Discussion & Consideration of Awarding Sealcoating Bid: Scott Construction hot oil bid \$220,462 (including 44th Street double chip seal) and cold oil bid \$219,493. Fahrner hot oil bid \$185,341.10 (includes 44th Street double chip seal) and cold oil bid \$179,717.73. Bids were compared and reviewed. *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Witzmann to award the bid for hot oil sealcoating to Fahrner (lowest bidder) for \$185,341.10 for approximately 10 miles, as recommended by the Transportation & Facilities Committee. Motion carried.*

Local History Tour/Design & Placement of Sign at Old Town Hall: Renee Reckner/Somerset Public Library is requesting a 12" X 18" aluminum sign on the Old Town Hall property for the Somerset History Tour Stop #10. The project aims to celebrate Somerset's heritage while highlighting notable locations, like the Old Town Hall. *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Witzmann to approve the sign placement and having the Old Town Hall on the Somerset History Tour. Motion carried.*

MSA Invoice#013318: Payment of \$7,500 was authorized May 1, 2024. Consensus to pay \$7,500 on MSA Invoice #013318 and get more details on the \$1,275 charges.

Old Business-St. Croix Condo Garages, 273 Andersen Scout Camp Road-Fence in Road Right-of Way – Discussion/Consideration of Letter: Witzmann explained his research and there has only been a jurisdictional transfer on the parcel from WI DOT to Town and no deed or anything recorded. The fence is in the road right-of-way. Trees planted on top of the hill are also in the road right-of-way and there is no room to move the trees onto their property. St. Croix County directed them to plant trees in the Land Use Permit, however, the trees were planted in the road right-of-way. Discussion on trees being up on a hill 65' away as the road right-of-way is so over 80', Germain stated he is not concerned with the trees, and they do provide screening. *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Witzmann to authorize Witzmann to work with Town attorney to get a letter drafted concerning the fence and stating the property owner is WI DOT, not Town. Motion carried.*

180th Avenue-Parent Street Jurisdictional Transfer Issues Regarding Process to Complete: Discussion and will take some looking into determining the process to complete.

Village of Somerset Bike/Ped Path-Right-of-Way Acquisition of Town Property-Discuss & Consideration: Concern over driveway accesses and safety. Town Board members would like to meet with the company negotiating road right-of-way acquisition.

Flagpole Quote from American Flagpole & Flags/Matt Knowlan for Town Hall: *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Germain to purchase 1-30' (\$3090 with 10' flag) and 2-25' (\$2690 each with 8' flag) flagpoles for out by the rock sign from American Flagpole & Flag Company and work with Fire Dept. and Wittstock if they'd like to contribute. Town will do the installation. Motion carried.*

Transportation & Facilities Committee-Generac Generator Pricing & Installation: Review of Wolter Quote & Menards Pricing. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Plourde to purchase a Generac Generator from Menards Natural Gas 22 KW at approx. \$6,500 and cold weather kit for \$500 (11% rebate) with installation from Neo Electrical for \$2,750. Motion carried.*

Parnell Prairie Preserve-Consideration of Flagpole & Electrical Install: Wait on flagpole. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Germain to approve the quote from Neo Electrical and St. Croix Electric*

Coop charges of \$5,950 to be paid out of the park fund for electrical install to the shelter. Motion carried.

205th Avenue Road Project- Jewell Associates: Scott Whitsett will inquire with WI DOT to see if Town can revise plans for more affordable project.

Appoint a Project Lead for 205th Avenue: Motion by Schachtner, seconded by Germain to appoint Doug Plourde as a project lead for 205th Avenue project. Motion carried.

Creation of a Master Map on Road Maintenance & Improvement Projects with Historical Data: Town road crew to compile a master map, highlighting sections of road improvement projects and techniques used, along with the year completed. Germain requested all gravel maps be marked on master map for future paving plans.

Equipment Update-Dagelmann/Consider Options: Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Plourde to list the Dagelmann on the surplus auction sites with a reserve of \$15,000. Motion carried.

Roads Update-Weight Restrictions: Roads were posted Tuesday, March 4.

Updated Public Works Labor & Equipment Charges Fee Schedule/Consider Approving: Next month.

Concrete Heave by Fire Dept. Old AC Unit Base: No action.

Consideration of Acquiring Reflective Stop Strips on Stop Signposts: Germain suggested the stop ahead signs too. Consensus was to order and install some lollipop strips on an annual basis.

210th Avenue Guardrail: Witzmann inquired with Doug Zahler regarding the engineered plans and the guardrail being installed according to plans. Zahler will have Zach Fagnan do some research. Plans say proposed guardrail per Township. Witzmann recommended Jewell give input with cost paid by property owner. Discussed reflective chevrons on guardrail. Consensus was to authorize Witzmann to contact Jewell for a quote and opinion on the situation.

Announcements:

WTA Dist. Mtg/BOR Training-Eau Claire, Sat., 3/15-Witzmann & Plourde
Transportation & Facilities Committee Meeting will be moved to Monday, March 31, 9 am
Spring Election, Tuesday, April 1, Polls open 7 am – 8 pm

Announcements & Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jeri Koester, Clerk