

**Town of Somerset & Village of Somerset
with Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission
Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 23, 2025**

Town Chair Doug Plourde called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm at the Town Hall. Present: Ryan Sicard, Chris Dubak, Jessica Plourde, Don Kern, Brandon Krohn, Caleb Garn, Chris Moreno from the Village. Doug Plourde, Tim Witzmann, Jason Crotty, and Lenny Germain from the Town. Dave Wolner, Rita Lawson, and Wally Neumann from the Fire/Rescue Commission. Travis Belisle and Sarah Kobs from the Fire Dept. Absent: Shane Demulling and Aaron Morrison. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: *Motion by Krohn, seconded by Kern to approve the agenda. Motion carried.*

Public Input: Larry Mondor spoke regarding the issues with Pine Vale development and Capstone. Still no resolution with water runoff issues and silt fences on his property. Doug Plourde stated the item is on the agenda tonight.

Minutes from Previous Joint Meeting: *Motion by Kern, second by Garn to approve the April 23, 2025, joint meeting minutes. Motion carried.*

Fire/Rescue 2nd Qtr. 2025 Financial Report: Tracking for 2% dues is being done on a separate spreadsheet. Belisle stated the insurance premium has increased approximately \$4,600. *Motion by Kern, seconded by Garn to approve the 2nd Qtr. 2025 Financial Report. Motion carried.*

Membership Update: Belisle stated membership is good with several new applications on file.

Old Business: Parnell Prairie Preserve Update-Witzmann spoke on the playground mulch and putting in drainage tile. Witzmann stated the water will be tested. Doug Plourde announced the blacktop expansion of parking lot is on hold. There is a mowing plan for hiking trails and disc golf with three different types of mowers.

Pine Vale Storm Water/Development Update-Sicard stated he will contact Mondors and have a discussion. Amanda Mondor stated this has been going on since last Fall and there has been no communication or resolution. Mondors request Capstone attend a joint meeting. Sicard stated he has no control of the past but can only move forward. Larry Mondor pressed Sicard that the Village must have some leverage. Garn stated he believes the entire Village Board should attend the meeting with Capstone and Mondors to resolve this issue.

Sports Fields & Parks Committee Update-Demulling was appointed to the Village's Sports Field & Parks Committee. Witzmann volunteered to be on the committee as Sicard suggested two Town Board members. Krohn requested tentative meeting dates. Sicard responded he will email out a calendar to the members for scheduling.

Review of Fire Dept. 5-Year & Long-Range Plans-Belisle stated no new additions to the plans. St. Croix County will be starting the process in 2026 to transition to the new radio system. Belisle stated he wants to continue to keep the equipment updated and work on the Comprehensive Plan and not sacrifice one for the other. Belisle stated there should be grants available for the purchase of the new radios and they will be considering a lot of factors in the radios and when they are purchased. Witzmann asked for discussion on the equipment and a new engine. The equipment is tied to the Comprehensive Plan. Discussion on creating a committee to look at the next equipment purchase with six members (two each from Fire Dept,

Village & Town). Witzmann stated the Comprehensive Plan talks about equipment needs so maybe a separate committee is not necessary.

Discussion on Available Grants-FEMA and DNR have been submitted.

Update/Status of New Concrete Project by Fire Dept. Doors-Doug Plourde announced the concrete project has been put on hold for 2025. Town will revisit the project in 2026 with advertising for sealed bids and scope of work.

Station Bay Flooring-Belisle stated it was quoted at around \$20,000 and that is being put on hold now.

New Village Fire/Rescue Commission Members: Sicard stated Aaron Morrison is the new Village Fire/Rescue Commission member along with Dave Wolner.

Town Fire/Rescue Commission Members: Doug Plourde, Rita Lawson and Wally Neumann are Town representatives to Fire/Rescue Commission.

Update on Department Activities-Fire Hall Kitchen-Belisle stated they want to remove the current kitchen and install a bigger sink. Germain requested kitchen removal be added to August 6th Town Board agenda.

New Business: Update on the Fire Dept. Comprehensive Plan Request for Proposal-Discussion on the proposals and having adequate time to review. The Fire/Rescue Commission is planning on meeting in two weeks to go through the plans. Crotty suggested getting copies of the Comprehensive Plans from other communities to review. Jessica Plourde stated three of the proposals were basically identical, but one proposal is very different. August 13, at 7 pm at Fire Hall was set as tentative date for Fire Rescue Commission meeting to go over the proposals and consider a recommendation.

Committee Formation for Review of Next Equipment Purchase: Crotty suggested adding this discussion to the August 13th Fire/Rescue Commission meeting agenda.

Camera Quote from CWS: Fire Dept. will pay for and install eight new cameras and a network video recorder in the Fire Hall out of their fundraising money.

Set Next Joint Meeting Date: The next regular Fire/Rescue Commission meeting was set for Wednesday, September 10, at 7:00 pm at the Fire Hall.

The next joint meeting date was set for Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 7 pm at the Village Hall.

Sicard announced St. Croix Economic Development Corporation has completed the County Housing Study and it will have a Somerset profile. Roadshow will be held August 12, 3:30pm-5:30pm at Somerset Library and preregistration is online.

Motion by Krohn, seconded by Jessica Plourde to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jeri Koester,
Town Clerk