

Unofficial

Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission Meeting

Unofficial

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 8:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall

Roll call: Doug Plourde, Wally Neumann, Rita Lawson, Travis Belisle, Jason Crotty, Dave Wollner, and Aaron Morrison. Note: Fire Department member attended the meeting.

Doug called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Dave moved, Wally seconded approval of the August 13, 2025 meeting minutes. Approved.

Budget Report: 2025 3rd Quarter Budget - Doug noted this would be covered at the Joint meeting next week on Wednesday, September 24.

Membership Update: Travis reported that they had lost 3 members. He noted they now had 25 members plus a bunch of applications. He explained that many applicants were in classes for training. He noted the fire calls recently had been when all the members were at work, i.e. not able to come, which is an ongoing issue.

Old Business: Discuss Strategic Plan proposals, questions and presentation for Joint meeting: Travis noted all the proposals showed the companies had done some work in Wisconsin and that there was greater cost for the companies located far away. He added it was important at next week's Joint meeting that the members see why those far away companies had a much higher price. He stated they must clarify the payment structure for all proposals before the Joint meeting. Travis said the department would recommend the lowest cost proposal for approval.

Discuss New Fire Department Truck Committee Members: Travis noted selecting the committee members now would allow the committee to have the truck choice ready once the Strategic Plan was completed. Doug noted the Town Board could select a member from the township at the next Town Board meeting Oct. 1, and that it didn't have to be a member of the Town Board.

New Business: Review, Discuss and Approve 2026 Budget: Travis reviewed the proposed 2026 budget, explaining changes from previous years and then adjusting some of the numbers as he reviewed them during the meeting. He noted that he would prepare a final version for the Joint meeting next week so it could be adopted then.

Fire Department Member Complaint Issue: The complaint was about a safety issue = measuring air quality by location of meters in the trucks. The department member presented his concerns about the way the department was responding, or not, to department members expressing concerns. Discussion proceeded about how members and the department could express and respond to concerns so the problems could be resolved. Doug recommended the department review, and improve, the department's safety protocols.

Discussion on Available Grants: Travis noted there were several they were interested in applying for and that they would work to have all the departments in the County apply together.

Motion by Wally, seconded by Dave to adjourn the meeting. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:37p.m.

Next meeting: Joint Town/Village meeting next Wednesday, September 24, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.