

**Town of Somerset & Village of Somerset
with Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission
Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 24, 2025
(Unofficial Until Approved at Next Meeting)**

Town Chair Doug Plourde called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Present: Ryan Sicard, Jessica Plourde, Don Kern, Caleb Garn, Chris Moreno from the Village. Doug Plourde, Tim Witzmann, Jason Crotty, Shane Demulling and Lenny Germain from the Town. Dave Wolner, Rita Lawson, and Wally Neumann from the Fire/Rescue Commission. Travis Belisle from the Fire Dept. Absent: Chris Dubak, Brandon Krohn, and Aaron Morrison. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

- *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Garn to approve the agenda. Motion carried.*

Public Input:

- Ryan Vanasse stated he is still experiencing flooding. Vanasse stated his well water is not drinkable, and he has been testing it. Larry Mondor stated nothing has happened with Capstone since the last joint meeting and he is still waiting for a phone call from Sicard. Mondor is at the point of seeking legal counsel. A silt fence is on Mondor's property. A property marker/post was put in on the Mondor property.

Minutes from Previous Joint Meeting:

- *Motion by Garn, second by Kern to approve the July 23, 2025, joint meeting minutes. Motion carried.*

Budget/Financial Report

- Financial Report for 3rd Qtr. 2025- *Motion by Kern, seconded by Garn to approve the 3rd Qtr. 2025 Financial Report. Motion carried.*

Membership Update

- Belisle reported five members left, six or seven in training with more new applications on file.

Old Business:

- Parnell Prairie Preserve Update-Witzmann stated the Town has received complaints concerning unleashed dogs. Witzmann suggested a leash law and requested input from Village. Witzmann presented County-owned park ordinance. Witzmann also discussed a request the Town received for placing a memorial at PPP. Discussion. Disc Golf/Somerset has applied for a grant and has received notice of award and looking for fiscal agent. Witzmann will have more information to follow. These three issues will be discussed at the Town level.
- Pine Vale Storm Water/Development Update-D. Plourde stated Town is anxious to see resolution to Mondor and Vanasse issues. Town is fully supportive of getting this issue resolved. Sicard stated Village is working on it. D. Plourde stated the Town would like to see resolution before future development on a second addition occurs. Demulling requested Sicard/Village keep the landowners informed. Vanasse was concerned about school bus turning around at LaGrandeur with no cul-de-sac/hammerhead. Mondor stated holding pond is overflowing and dumping on Zwickey's property and water channels down to neighboring properties, flooding Mondor's property. Demulling stated if the tables were turned, the Town would take care of the issue. Kern

stated he will continue to follow up on this issue. Plourde requested an update at the January 2026 joint meeting.

- Parent Street/180th Avenue Jurisdictional Transfer/Survey-D. Plourde stated Jurisdictional Transfer and Highway Order need legal description of roadway transferred through a survey. Doug Zahler has provided a quote not to exceed \$2000. Jurisdictional Transfer & Highway Order will need to include legal description of the Town's portion of road being transferred to Village with documents needing re-approval/signing at January's joint meeting. Once signed, no deed required. This is not annexation process as roadway transfer can be done by a jurisdictional transfer agreement with survey. D. Plourde stated the Town can pay for the \$2000 survey and the Village can reimburse the Town when the jurisdictional transfer occurs. *Motion by Sicard, seconded by Kern for the Town to pursue a survey and Village will reimburse upon the execution of the jurisdictional transfer. Discussion. Germain asked if the survey would include staking. Discussion. Motion by Kern, seconded by Sicard to make a motion Village approve up to \$4000 for a survey and anything over the Town is responsible for. Discussion. Consensus was to get a cost estimate from Doug Zahler for a survey and staking and have Village Board consider approving at their October meeting. All motions fail and jurisdictional agreement is tabled.*
- Review of 5-Year & Long-Range Plans-Belisle stated no change from past meetings.
- Discussion on Available Grants-Belisle stated DNR and FEMA. FAP money-Belisle discussed per capita in addition to the payment received last year.
- Update on Department Activities-Restorative Circle being implemented.

New Business:

- Discuss and Approve 2026 Fire/Rescue Department Budget-Total 2026 budget is \$305,250 with the Town funding 53% and the Village funding 47%. The 2% dues are subtracted from each municipality's share. *Motion by Kern, seconded by Garn to approve the pay scale increases and the 2026 Fire/Rescue Dept. Budget of \$305,250 with the Town's portion \$161,783 less 2% receipts of \$35,953 for a total of \$125,830 and the Village's portion \$143,468 less 2% receipts of \$22,306 for a total of \$121,162. Motion carried. Crotty abstained.*
- Discuss/Approve Fire/Rescue Dept. Comprehensive Plan Recommendation of Vendor-Discussion and review of costs and proposals. Belisle stated three vendors submitted the questionnaire requested. Belisle stated the Fire Rescue Commission recommended 5 Bugle, local no travel costs, lowest quote at \$12,000 and no payment due until final plan. 5 Bugle can complete by end of January 2026. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Moreno to approve lowest cost proposal from 5 Bugle Training & Consulting LLC at a cost of up to \$12,000 with the Town/Village split. Motion carried.*
- Appoint Members to New Fire Truck Selection Committee: D. Plourde stated Wally Neumann agreed to be the representative for the Town. Dave Wolner for the Village. *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Garn to appoint Dave Wolner/Village and Wally Neumann/Town as representatives on the new Fire Truck Selection Committee. Motion carried.*
- Discuss Consistency of Billing for Structure Fires and Where Funds Should Go: Town is currently charging \$1000 for fire calls on structure fires and there have been three structure fires so far this year. Village is not charging. Discussion. Sicard stated the Village will try to have a policy in

place by the next joint meeting. Germain suggested the Town pay the \$1000/per call to the Fire Dept. for wages.

Next Meetings:

- Fire/Rescue Commission Meeting, Wed., January 21, 2026, 7 pm Fire Hall
- Joint Town, Village, Fire/Rescue Commission Meeting, Wed., January 28, 2026, 7 pm Village

Adjourn

- *Motion by Kern, seconded by J. Plourde to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.*

Jeri Koester,
Town Clerk