

Town of Somerset
Town Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
(Not official until approved at next meeting.)

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

Public Input

- None.

Clerk and Treasurer's Report

- *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Germain to approve the December 3, 2025, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Witzmann to approve the regular December 3rd Town Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Crotty to approve the December Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.*

Building Inspector's Report

- *Motion by Crotty, seconded by Germain to approve the December Building Inspector's Report. Motion carried.*

Animal Control Officer's Report

- No calls for December. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Demulling to approve the December Animal Control Officer Retainer. Motion carried.*

Fire/Rescue Commission Report

- The total calls for 2025 are 500 so far compared to 526 in 2024. Update on trucks and 5 Bugles requesting to meet one-on-one with Board members. Plourde strongly recommended Town Board members contact Bruce at 5 Bugles.

Parks, Rec, and Planning Commission Report

- 4 Lot Minor Subdivision for B & R Properties – 170th Avenue & Joint Driveway Maintenance Agreement and Two Variance Requests-Two Dwellings on One Parcel and Lot to Depth Ratio-Discussion on the easement document allowing all four lots to use it for a dedicated Town road if ever subdivided. Witzmann stated since this is a shared driveway easement, the document should state that only Lots #1 & #4 can use the shared driveway easement. Lot #4 has a 4.7 acres commercial zone area and the remainder is residential. Demulling concerned with the commercial zoning in the back, so to access it, you would have to drive through residential. Plourde stated the 66' shared driveway easement was requested by the Plan Commission to be 80' per Town ordinance. All commercial driveways must have asphalt so at the time of the commercial/conditional use permit, the commercial access would have to be paved. Demulling requested an 80' easement be mapped on Lot #4 off 170th Avenue to the commercial area. Discussion on wetland and feasibility of a road being built through that area. Plourde requested clarification of the joint driveway maintenance agreement to specify that it is for only Lots #1 & #4 and map the 80' easement to the commercial area of Lot #4 be on the CSM. Ben Peterson stated the commercial area has an easement off Hillcrest Drive. Demulling stated if they have legal access off Hillcrest, then the mapping of the easement on Lot #4 would not be required. *Motion by Germain, seconded by Demulling to postpone and return to the February 4th Town Board clarification of the*

easement to the commercial area and amend the joint driveway maintenance agreement. Motion carried.

New Business

- **Draw Town Board Supervisor Names for Placement on Ballot**
Plourde drew the names for placement on April 7, 2026, Ballot is as follows: 1. Tim Witzmann, 2. Shane M. Demulling
- **TRID-LRIP Project-205th Ave. Bid Opening-Consideration of Awarding Bid & Scope of Project**
Total Excavating & Grading LLC was low bidder on Project A & B. There were eleven total bidders. Scott Jewell reviewed the bids on behalf of the Town and confirmed that Total Excavating & Grading was the lowest responsible bidder and has met all the requirements. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Demulling to award the 205th Avenue TRID-LRIP Project #17255 to Total Excavating & Grading LLC Project A (from State Hwy. 35 to County Road I) in the amount of **\$1,465,078.20**. Motion carried.* Jewell has been awarded the engineering of the project at \$36,500 which is not included in the \$1,465,078.20.
- **Addendum to St. Croix Co. Law Enforcement Services Contract**
Motion by Germain, seconded by Witzmann to approve the addendum to the St. Croix County Law Enforcement Services Contract. Motion carried.
- **Michael Baratto/Eugene & Angela Baratto-Appeal for Additional Compensation for Fence- 205th**
Michael Baratto requested compensation for installation of fencing. Plourde advised getting a quote for consideration. *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Germain to table the compensation for fence installation until the February 4th meeting. Motion carried.*
- **Andrew Keller-Concept Rick Flandrick Parcel off 162nd Avenue, 85th Street Easement Access:**
Keller purchasing middle parcel from Rick Flandrick. Rick Flandrick and Cindy Breault each have a lot accessing off 85th Street shared easement. Plourde stated Getschel & Keller share the driveway access off 160th Avenue. Keller stated he is looking to build a house and requested access to 160th Avenue, not off the shared easement with Getschels, but a separate driveway. 162nd Avenue has farmland off the access-Keller stated no plans to put a house or access off 162nd Avenue. Much discussion on future Town Road Easement Agreement off 162nd Avenue. Demulling stated the access off 85th Street works if Keller could use the shared access with Cindy Breault or Keller could use the Getschel shared driveway easement or build a Town road off the end of 162nd Avenue. No action taken/clarification only.

Old Business

- Reynolds stated the grant application submitted for the FEMA based grant was denied. The DNR grants are set up so that any work that is done before the grant is approved is not funded. Reynolds suggested putting in a conveyance system from pond outlet to river. Plourde stated the best location is on Lawson property due to white pines and vertical drops. Witzmann suggested pursuing the clay method which was quoted and Demulling requested doing an as built. Survey and soil borings have been done. Plourde stated he would like to pursue sealing off the French drain with clay and doing an as built with the culverts to see if they are at the proper elevation as maintenance. Germain stated he would like to see the as built and then correcting the riprap below the level of the drain, so the pond holds the water. The clay option from Larson was approved November 19th special meeting, not to exceed \$15,600. *Motion by Witzmann to proceed with the quote for removing riprap below the culvert level per the spec provided by Jewell and replace with impervious clay not to exceed \$15,600.* Discussion- Crotty stated his concerns. Jeff Reynolds stated we have the information that we need to maintain it back to the

original design without any issues from the DNR. Once you try to modify or change the outflow, without DNR permission, there are issues. Reynolds recommended pursuing a DNR grant application, complete the design for construction phase, and submit by April 2026. An easement from Lawson would be part of the application. Germain stated he would like to see it returned to the way it was supposed to be built and continue to move forward on Jeff Reynold's recommendation. Witzmann's motion failed due to a lack of a second. *Motion by Germain, seconded by Crotty to approve Reynold's recommendation to proceed with the design, contingent upon acquiring an easement to the north from Lawson with Plourde contacting Lawson. Motion carried.*

- **Discussion on Stormwater Requirements for Minor Subdivisions by Town**
Witzmann requested a delay until next month.

Transportation & Facilities Committee

- **GPS Tracking Quotes-Discuss/Approve**
Witzmann obtained pricing from Geotab/STS (St. Croix County's vendor) and Verizon Connect. *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Witzmann to approve the purchase of GPS tracking devices (Witzmann's preferred vendor) not to exceed \$164/per month. Motion carried. Germain voted no.*
- **Equipment Update**
Western Star issue had two wiring harnesses that were too close together. Issue has been resolved. Sterling-brake caliper issue. Mower tractor to go in for maintenance repairs.
- **Snowplowing Update**
Demulling provided an update.
- **Roads Update**
44th St. LRIP application-\$5000 was awarded by CTRIC.
- **Larger TV & Owl for Town Hall-Discuss/Approve**
Motion by Plourde, seconded by Crotty to approve the purchase of the 98 " Samsung TV for the Town Hall and mounting bracket not to exceed \$2100. Motion carried. Plourde stated there is no policy for Town Board members to attend remotely. *Motion by Crotty, seconded to Plourde approve the Owl3 not to exceed \$1,500. Motion carried.*
- **Draft Update of Employee Handbook-Discuss**
Crotty requested Town Board review and submit changes.
- **Updating Emergency Operations Plan-Discuss**
Crotty will work on draft update.

Announcements & Adjourn

- Parks, Rec & PC Meeting-Wed., Jan. 21, 7 pm
- Fire Rescue Commission Meeting-Wed., Jan. 21, 8 pm
- Jt. Town, Village, Fire Dept. Meeting-Wed., Jan. 28, 8 pm at Village Hall
- WTA Mtg.-Thurs., Jan. 22, 6:30 pm at SCC Hwy. Dept.
- District WTA Meeting-Sat., March 7 @ Eau Claire
- *Motion by Crotty, seconded by Witzmann to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.*