

JOINT MEETING MINUTES
Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission
Somerset Town Board
Somerset Village Board
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 | 8:00 PM

Village President Donald Kern called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm at the Village Hall. Village trustees present: Chris Dubak, Caleb Garn, Donnie Kern, Brandon Krohn, Chris Moreno, and Jessica Plourde. Town Chairs present: Jason Crotty, Shane Demulling, Lenny Germain, Doug Plourde, and Tim Witzmann. Members of the Fire/Rescue Commission present: Rita Lawson, Aaron Morrison, Wally Neumann, and Dave Wolner. Travis Belisle and Sarah Kobs, from the Fire Department, were also present. Janna Stewart, village trustee, was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Witzmann, second by Garn to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment

No one from the public spoke.

Minutes from the September 24, 2025 Joint Meeting (Town Hall)

Motion by Garn, second by J. Plourde to approve the minutes with the following amendments to the Public Input section:

1. A silt fence is on the Mondor property
2. A property marker/post was put in on the Mondor property

And to specify which Plourde made a comment/motion by indicating their first initial. Ex. D. Plourde or J. Plourde.

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget/Financial Report

Sarah Kobs stated that the 2024 audit is complete and bound copies of the Financial Statement and Supplementary Information will be available soon. Belisle reviewed the structure and application of the 2% fire dues within the budget.

Motion by D. Plourde, second by Garn to approve the budget as provided. Motion carried. Crotty abstained.

Membership Update

Fire Chief Belisle stated that there are 24 members. There were four (4) retirements in 2025.

Old Business

Strategic Plan Progress/5 Bugle

Fire Chief Belisle stated that a rough draft is expected in the next couple of weeks for review.

Fire Truck Update

Chief Belisle stated that the Fire Truck Committee will be scheduling a time to discuss after the strategic plan has been completed and reviewed.

Water Run-Off/Development Update - Pine Vale

Kern reported that he and Moreno visited the property and plan to return in the spring, after the snow has melted, for further evaluation. Witzmann asked whether the concern involves water runoff or a property encroachment. Kern responded that both potential issues will be assessed once conditions allow for a clearer inspection.

Parent St/180th Ave Update

D. Plourde stated that a survey and description need to be completed on the property. The Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town and Village is still in place.

New Business

Department Activities Update/Grants

Fire Chief Belisle reported that the Fire Department applied for a FEMA grant but does not expect to be awarded the funding. The Department has received a 50/50 grant from the DNR to purchase brush pants and boots for members who require them. Additionally, the Department plans to apply for a grant through Firehouse Subs to fund an electronic fire extinguisher training system.

Chief Belisle also stated that the Department will be transitioning to First Due for its fire and EMS reporting software. This platform will consolidate truck maintenance records, hydrant information, calls, and run data into a single application.

Finally, Chief Belisle noted that the Department is exploring Code Four, a program that partners with public safety agencies to address mental health. The cost of this program would be fully covered by FAP funds.

Date & Time of Next Joint Meeting

The next Joint Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at the Village Hall. The next Fire/Rescue Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at the Fire Hall.

Adjourn

Motion by Garn, second by Demulling to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Jessica Lehman, Village Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.