

Town of Somerset
2026 Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Call to Order & Roll Call: Chair Plourde called the Annual Town meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Town Board members in attendance were Tim Witzmann, Shane Demulling, Doug Plourde, Lenny Germain, and Jason Crotty. Residents present: Russ Hultman, Robert Tavis, Lynn Cook, Wendy Demulling, Ed Schachtner, Louis Germain. Mary Williams (non-resident).

Oath of Office for Town Board Supervisors Shane Demulling and Tim Witzmann: Koester administered the Oath of Office for Town Board Supervisors Shane Demulling and Tim Witzmann elected to a 2-year term at the April 7, 2026, election. The Oath Book was signed.

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes: Motion by Ed Schachtner, seconded by Louis Germain to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes. 6 in favor; none opposed. Motion carried at 7:08 p.m.

Financial Report for 2025: Plourde read the 2025 Financial Report. Motion by Lynn Cook, seconded by Russ Hultman to accept the Financial Report. 6 in favor; none opposed. Motion carried at 7:15 p.m.

Authorization to Borrow Funds: Motion by Louis Germain, seconded by Wendy Demulling to authorize the Town Board to borrow up to \$500,000 if necessary. 6 in favor; none opposed. Motion carried at 7:16 p.m.

Set Gopher Bounty: Motion by Louis Germain, seconded by Russ Hultman to leave the pocket gopher bounty to \$3.00 each per tail. 6 in favor; none opposed. Motion carried at 7:17 p.m.

Set 2027 Annual Meeting Date: Motion by Ed Schachtner, seconded by Russ Hultman to set the 2027 Annual Meeting for Tuesday, April 20, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. 6 in favor; none opposed. Motion carried at 7:18 p.m.

Other Business: Mary Williams, Somerset Community Food Pantry Director, spoke and requested a refrigerator be placed in the Town Hall. Williams discussed the statistics, the funding cuts, the increase in serving the community and the necessity of the Food Pantry. Williams presented information on a fundraising event on Tuesday, April 28 with a donor match. Williams stated the four biggest needs are shelving, a bigger parking lot, funds to purchase food, and changing how they are serving the Somerset School District. Consensus was no opposition to placing a refrigerator/freezer in the Town Hall for the community. Demulling offered to purchase a refrigerator/freezer and donate it.

Robert Tavis, resident on 170th Avenue, spoke on the last three months of planning, zoning and the Town of Somerset not doing their own zoning but using St. Croix County. Tavis requested the Town Board seriously consider bringing that zoning back to Somerset. Tavis stated the key issues in the Town's Comprehensive Plan are the rural environment-small Town feel, putting commercial in commercial zones and the county does not care what those goals are. Tavis stated Town of St. Joseph took on their own zoning and he does not see that St. Croix County cares about the residents of Somerset, upon his attendance at the recent county meeting, and they are only concerned about being

sued. Tavis stated the Town Board did listen to the residents' concerns. St. Croix County made their decision based upon Act 67. Tavis stated compatibility needs to be taken into account and there was no substantial evidence from the County as to how the use is compatible and safety was another concern citing road improvements and fire safety with the Fire Dept. Tavis requested the Town Board take control of their community, realizing it will cost more in the budget, but he believes Somerset needs to take control of it. Plourde thanked Tavis for coming in with his concerns.

Motion by Ed Schachtner, seconded by Lynn Cook to adjourn. Annual meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Jeri Koester,
Clerk