

Town of Somerset
Town Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 3, 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 Germain, seconded by Witzmann to approve the agenda. Motion carried.*

Public Input: Larry Hecht and Jeff Walker addressed the Town Board regarding the grant application and requested a copy. Clerk provided an electronic copy of the grant application submitted by Jewell. Plourde stated there will have to be an easement, but no monies will be exchanged. Plourde stated this meeting is being recorded.

Clerk and Treasurer's Report: *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Crotty to approve May 6, 2026, Town Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Crotty to approve the May Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.*

Building Inspector's Report for May & Discussion/Consideration to Approve Accessory Structure Affidavit Form and Filing at Register of Deeds: *Motion by Germain, seconded by Witzmann to approve the May Building Inspector's Report. Motion carried.*

Animal Control Officer's Report: No calls for the month of May.

Fire/Rescue Commission Report: To date, 234 the total calls are compared to 194 for the same time last year. The Fire Dept. is excited to begin working with Boards on the Strategic Plan goals. Travis Belisle requested forward movement on the Strategic Plan and asked for the Town Board's support. Belisle welcomed a tour of the Fire Department facilities. Plourde suggested a facilitator with a Pugh Chart.

County Board Dist. 2 Report from Dani Erickson for May & June: Town Board appreciated the reports.

Parks, Rec, and Planning Commission Report: No meeting was held in May.

New Business-Hillside Estates/St. Croix AR Consideration of Resolution #2026-05 Acceptance of Final Plat & Roads & Reduction of Financial Guarantee to Warranty Period: Alissa Gray stated the shouldering and culvert repairs are scheduled for next week. Crotty will inspect after completion. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Demulling to adopt Resolution #2026-05 and accept the Town Roads and Final Plat of Hillside Estates Subdivision with the performance guarantee reduced to \$20,000 for the 18-month warranty period. Motion carried.*

Kristen deVries, 2124-54th Street Request for Variance to Town Ordinance 30-100(a) 1-2 Driveway Slope-Kristen deVries was in attendance to discuss the need for a variance on the driveway slope at 2124-54th Street and presented photos. Consensus of the Town Board is it is more dangerous to have the driveway sloping toward the road rather than away from the road. Discussion on the terrain. *Motion by Crotty, seconded by Demulling to approve the variance to Town Ordinance 30-100(a) 1-2 for driveway slope and allow for the existing driveway slope to remain at 2124-54th Street. Motion carried.*

Consideration of Approval of 2026-2027 Liquor, Operator, Tobacco, Camping, Concessions and Salvage-Junkyard License Renewals-Listing of all license applications, agents and operators was reviewed. Germain requested a copy of the State license for Riverstead and the lease agreement prior to release of the Riverstead

licenses. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Plourde to approve the 2026-2027 "Class B" Liquor License Renewals & Agents, Operator Licenses, Tobacco/Cigarette & Electronic Vaping Licenses, Campground, Concessions Licenses, and Junkyard-Salvage Yard License with the condition that Riverstead Camp/Steve Kaufman submit the lease agreement and a copy of the State license for the campground. Motion carried. Separate list attached at the end of the Minutes.*

Discussion on Developing & Assigning Responsibility on Submitting a List of Potential Violations to County: Germain suggested sending violations from the Town Board on behalf of residents and their concerns. Residents oftentimes wish to remain anonymous. Demulling stated not every complaint is legitimate, so there should be a process to make sure the complaint is legitimate prior to submitting it to the County. Witzmann suggested he create a spreadsheet and bring it back to the Town Board next month for review. After Board approval, Witzmann would submit the spreadsheet to the St. Croix County Community Development with the County's violation form for each issue, requesting an update quarterly. Consensus was to proceed with consideration in July.

Discuss & Consider Approving Resolution 2026-06 Requiring an Affidavit and Restrictive Covenant for Accessory Structures: *Motion by Crotty, seconded by Witzmann to table Resolution 2026-06 until July meeting. Motion carried.*

Stormwater Management Plan on Minor Subdivisions by Town-Discuss & Consider: Witzmann stated municipalities have the authority to address stormwater management plan on minor subdivisions. Witzmann presented a draft of the Minor Subdivision Ordinances, adding verbiage under approval process for the Parks, Rec & Planning Commission to request engineer review to indicate if a stormwater management plan is required. Demulling asked how determination will be made and requested a checklist of items, such as adjacent to lakes/streams/rivers/wetlands/slope/terrain. Discussion on implementing the checklist into the Parks, Rec & Planning Commission application. Consensus was to have Witzmann contact Jeff Reynolds for assistance.

Discuss & Consider Recommendation to St. Croix Co. Community Development Committee to Address Concerns in Chapter 15 Related to Self-Storage in R2 Zoning Districts/Conditional Use Permits & Any Other Concerns with Use Chart in Chapter 15: Witzmann stated there was enough concern on the last self-storage facility proposed on the 20-acre parcel that he has spoken to Jason Kjeseth. Self-storage is allowed in R1 & R2, C1 with a Conditional Use Permit under Chapter 15, Code of St. Croix County Ordinances. Witzmann presented a draft letter requesting St. Croix Co. Community Development Committee consider amending Chapter 15 to remove self-storage facilities as an allowable use with a Conditional Use Permit under Section 15.285.2 within both R-1 and R-2 zoning districts, as it negatively impacts neighboring properties and the commercial enterprises should be appropriately placed on commercial property. Witzmann explained his concerns with self-storage facilities in R-1 and R-2 parcels without any primary residence. *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Witzmann to approve the letter to St. Croix County Community Development Director regarding concerns as discussed. Motion carried.*

Old Business-Appointment to Committees by Town Chair-Fire/Rescue, Parks, Rec & Planning, Transportation & Facilities: Plourde appointed Tabatha Hansen, Byron Patterson and himself as Chair to Fire/Rescue Commission, Jeri Koester, Bill Lawson, Lenny Germain and himself Chair to Parks, Rec & Planning Commission, Jason Crotty (Summer Shop Supervisor), Shane Demulling (Winter Shop Supervisor) and Tim Witzmann as Chair to Transportation & Facilities Committee.

205th Avenue Project Update & Possible Draw #2 Request: No draw request was submitted. Utilities had to be moved prior to grinding. Excavation scheduled to start June 8.

Transportation & Facilities Committee-Town Hall Parking Lot Sealcoating: Witzmann reported that the Town Hall parking lot has been removed from the hot oil/Fahrner bid with the decision to wait until next year based upon budget. Committee was not comfortable using emulsion oil at the price quoted from Fahrner and felt it best to postpone the Town Hall parking lot until next year.

Equipment Update: Crotty discussed estimate on Truck #773 Sterling at a cost of around \$10,000. Crotty stated that he is not certain the repair is in the best interest of the Town. Crotty recommended not repairing and consider moving the Sterling truck to WI Surplus and disposing it. Crotty reported on Truck #771 estimate. *Motion by Plourde, seconded by Demulling to approve listing the Sterling Truck #773 on WI Surplus with a reserve of \$25,000. Motion carried.* Germain also suggested listing on MN Bid if allowable.

Discuss Updating 5-Year Road Plan: Witzmann suggested updating the Town's 5-Year Road Plan. Suggested seeking professional support from an engineering firm on implementation. Tabled.

Roads Update on Summer Projects & Mowing: Mowing has been started. Sealcoating is in process. Additional traffic on Town roads due to Highway 64 ramp closures. Witzmann reported that a camera was installed at Parnell Prairie Preserve and a sign will be posted.

Announcements: Transportation & Facilities Committee Meeting rescheduled to Tues., July 7
Town Board Meeting rescheduled to Wednesday, July 8, 7 pm

Adjourn: *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Germain to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.*

Jeri Koester,
Clerk