

Town of Somerset
Town Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 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.* Plourde announced the meeting is on Zoom.

Public Input: None.

Clerk and Treasurer's Report: *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Crotty to approve the August 5, 2026, Town Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Germain, seconded by Witzmann to approve the August Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.*

Building Inspector's Report: *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Demulling to approve the August Building Inspector's Report. Motion carried.*

Animal Control Officer's Report: *Motion by Germain, seconded by Crotty to approve the August Animal Control Officer Report. Motion carried.*

Fire/Rescue Commission Report: To date, the total number of calls is 376 compared to 333 for the same time last year. Responses to RFP are due by October 2, 2026.

County Board District 2 Report from Dani Erickson-Discussion on Ordinance Amendments & Issues: Dani Erickson summarized the County Board meeting from Sept. 2, focusing on CUPs moving to Board of Adjustment from Community Development, Hwy. E & I roundabout construction in 2027, Library levy for 2027 was approved at 100%, Chapter 15 data center 1-year moratorium passed, self-storage moving out of R 1 & R2 into commercial passed, new Chapter 67 created regarding standing, stopping and parking on County Rd. C, CC and UU, five-year capital improvement plan was approved for EMS, towers, radios and equipment was 20 million approved, jail expansion is postponed until 2028, transfer from general fund balance to capital improvement fund to reduce future borrowing and interest costs, CDC discussing possible groundwater and surface water improvement strategies, the 2025 audit was completed.

Parks, Rec, and Planning Commission Report: Sylvia Dalzell-Mark McClenathan Auth Consulting 469-208th Avenue Variance Request/Driveway for Lot #2-Requesting variance of 20'. Driveway separation would be 180' rather than 200'. Board supported the variance request due to public safety and the road being no outlet/low traffic. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Demulling to approve a 20' driveway variance for Sylvia Dalzell on Lot #2. Motion carried.*

Old Business-60th Street Update: Jeff Reynolds updated the Board that the 60th Street DNR grant application was not approved. Plourde stated the grant application is a 2-year cycle and would it be worthwhile to resubmit. Discussion. Germain suggested inviting DNR to an on-site visit. Reynolds suggested dividing the project into different areas to apply for specific DNR grants targeting those areas individually. Larry Hecht suggested he meet with the DNR agent and provide videos of the runoff issues. Hecht requested re-applying for the 2027 grant cycle. Reynolds will contact DNR for an on-site visit to which Hecht and Germain requested to be present. *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Witzmann to direct Jeff Reynolds to proceed with the intent to apply for the 2027 DNR grant cycle for 60th Street. Motion carried.*

205th Avenue Project Update & Possible Draw #3 & Draw #4 Requests: Plourde reported all issues with the driveway on the west side have been resolved. Plourde stated Helget and Baillargeon driveways and a utility pole moving invoice are being addressed. Ron Baillargeon's driveway was not on the original MSA plan and that issue is being negotiated. Curb and gutter have been poured. Blacktop is scheduled for next week.

Updating Driveway Permit Forms/Ordinance and Process: Plourde requested all endwalls reference galvanized. Discussion on a notation "see ordinance" regarding ag and commercial driveway specs. Germain suggested making the backslope a separate section and change it to -2%. *Motion by Germain, seconded by Crotty to approve the new driveway permit application form. Motion carried.*

Yard Waste/Debris Disposal Options-Discussion & Consideration: City of New Richmond Public Works meeting on September 30. *Motion by Germain, seconded by Demulling to table until October. Motion carried.*

New Business-Discuss/Consider Renewing Assessment Contract 2027-2036 with Chimney Rock Appraisal: Barrett Brenner reviewed the proposed contract with the Board. *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Crotty to approve the renewal of the Assessment Contract for 2027-2037 with Chimney Rock Appraisal at an annual cost of \$32,000/year for 10 years. Motion carried.*

Discuss/Consider Four Variance Requests to SCC by Joseph & Natalie Weber at 1488 Twin Springs Rd.-Town Road Setback and Application Status/Timeline/Comments/Comments from National Park Service: Public Hearing at SCC was tabled on August 27 to last Thursday of Sept. Requesting three variances asking for the detached shed to be attached to the garage, road setback and deck on the back of the house. Mark McClenathan/Auth Consulting was in attendance to discuss the applications to St. Croix County. The request was postponed at County meeting and will be resubmitted for a hearing at the end of September. National Park Service requested more information.

Plourde stated his concern with the timeline and sequence of the county submittals when notifying the Towns. Towns receive notices after their monthly board meeting and the county hearings are scheduled before the Town Board meets again.

Discussion on whether the variance from the Town road setback meets the hardship standard or if there is a hardship for the proposed front of garage expansion to align with front of house, along with attaching the detached shed to the primary structure. Previous structure was out of compliance 17' but has grandfathered rights and current property owner has the right to rebuild within the original footprint. Prior structure house was 33' and the garage part was 35' from the town road right-of-way. Request for the garage and shed to be attached and encroach the town road by 2' more. Concern and discussion that any vehicles parked in the driveway are an additional encroachment concern. Discussion that the detached garage being attached could be an expansion of the house footprint as the residents could incorporate that into the home footprint and park their cars outside. Germain reported building inspector confirmed that residential overhangs are not included in the setback measurement and, if approved, recommended a 2' overhang max, as prior structure.

Motion by Demulling, seconded by Plourde to approve the 2' variance closer to Twin Springs Road, built to 33' from originally at 35' from the Town road right-of-way for Joseph and Natalie Weber at 1488 Twin Springs Road (parcel #032-2082-80-100). Roll call vote: Demulling-yes, Plourde-yes, Witzmann-no, Germain-no, Crotty-no. Motion failed 3 to 2 with the Town Board denying the request to build closer to the town road than the original house footprint, recommending the setback stay at the original 35' due to no hardship. Motion carried.

Set 2027 Public Budget Hearing & Special Town Meeting of Electors Date/Time-(Wednesday, November 4, 6:45 pm): Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Crotty to set the 2027 Public Budget Hearing & Special Town Meeting of Electors for Wednesday, November 4th at 6:45 pm. Motion carried.

Front Town Hall Concrete Repairs-Review and Consider Quotes and Options: Motion by Crotty, seconded by Witzmann to approve Schmit Paving quote of two lifts of 2" asphalt paving not to exceed \$15,855 and All Excavating demo and build up base quote for \$1,500 for removal of concrete and repaving in front of Town Hall doors using the Town Hall capital outlay account of \$4,000 and the balance transferred from Town Clerk part time help account with Crotty confirming base prep by All Excavating and not necessary by Schmit Paving. Motion carried.

Discuss/Review/Consider Update on Property Tax Bill Format, Pricing & Insert Options: Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Crotty to approve mail service ABT without inserts for tax bills. Motion carried.

Transportation & Facilities Committee-Equipment Update: Witzmann reported on discussion on budgeting for equipment. Witzmann proposed a board work session prior to budget preparation. Capital outlay equipment budget spreadsheet was presented. The recommendation was to increase the capital outlay-equipment budget to \$84,000 for 2027 an increase of 5% and consider replacing the 2003 F350 in 2027.

Draw #3 & Draw #4 Requests for 205th Avenue from Total Excavating & Grading: Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Germain to approve Draw #3 request for payment of \$400,953.30 and Draw #4 request for payment of \$15,914.12 pending confirmation by Plourde of the gravel and correct amount on Draw #4 to Total Excavating and Grading LLC for 205th Avenue Project. Motion carried.

Equipment-2001 Sterling-Equipment: Crotty reported on the sales manager from Western Star purchase inspecting the 2001 Sterling and still expressed an interest in acquiring it. Crotty stated he felt if the company is still interested in offering the reserve or close to trade-in value, the Town should pursue that option. Board supported the truck being parked out front for sale at \$25,000 and to pursue these options. Plourde suggested a special meeting to discuss/consider offers, if needed.

Roads Update: Discussion on 55th Street dedication of road and easement documents filed at St. Croix County Register of Deeds. Paving/logging damage off Andersen Scout Camp Road is scheduled in two weeks.

Employee Handbook: Draft presented for final review at workday.

2027 Budget Preparations: Budget workday w/CLA on Friday, Oct. 2 at 9 am.

Announcements: Parks, Rec & Planning Commission Meeting-September 16, 7 pm
Fire Rescue Commission Meeting, September 16, 8 pm
Joint Town, Village & Fire Rescue Commission Meeting, September 23, 7 pm at Town Hall
Budget Workday at Town Hall, Friday, Oct. 2, 9 am

Adjourn: Motion by Germain, seconded by Witzmann to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Jeri Koester,
Clerk