

**Town of Somerset & Village of Somerset
with Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission
Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 23, 2026
(Unofficial Until Approved at Next Meeting)**

Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance: Town Chair Doug Plourde called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Village Board present: Donnie Kern, Chris Dubak, Caleb Garn, David Wolner and Janna Stewart. Town Board present: Doug Plourde, Jason Crotty, Tim Witzmann, Shane Demulling and Lenny Germain. Present from the Fire/Rescue Commission: Tabatha Hansen, Byron Patterson, and Tim O'Brien. Fire/Rescue Dept. present: Travis Belisle and Sarah Kobs. Absent: Jessica Plourde, Brandon Krohn, Aaron Morrison. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Doug Plourde announced the meeting was being recorded.

Approval of Agenda

- *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Garn to approve the agenda. Motion carried.*

Public Input

- None.

Minutes from Previous Joint Meeting

- *Motion by Witzmann, seconded by Garn to approve the July 29, 2026, joint meeting minutes. Motion carried.*

Membership Update

- Travis Belisle gave a membership update.

Old Business

- Discussion/Consideration-Parnell Prairie Preserve Cost Sharing/Creation of a Committee: Crotty stated joint ownership needs to remain. The Village has never contested the improvements. The Town has maintained and brought it to the current standard. Crotty suggested making an agreement that the Town would incur all maintenance costs with the control of the property, not including the landfill liability. Demulling suggested a lease agreement and the Village retains ownership. Kern inquired about the settling of the cap. Witzmann volunteered to inquire on the issue of the maintenance of the cap. Crotty agreed to collaborate with Kern on drafting a lease agreement for the next joint meeting. *Motion by Kern, seconded by Garn to approve that the Village lease Parnell Prairie Preserve to the Town for a 3-year period with renewal option and discussion on the cap inspection. Motion carried.*

Budget/Financial Report

- Financial Report for 3rd Qtr. Belisle reported on large diameter hoses recently purchased. Office supplies-replacement of computers, policy builders, first due software resulting in \$8,000 overage. Belisle reported Pea Soup Days fundraising netted \$25,000. *Motion by Garn, seconded by Kern to approve the 3rd Qtr. 2026 Financial Report. Motion carried.*
- Discussion/Consideration RFP Questions from Vendors: Belisle reported on one question regarding the need for a financial advisor. Closing date is Friday, October 2 at 4:00 p.m.
- Update on New Fire Department Truck Committee: Belisle stated six officers and one member comprises the committee. Discussion with Pierce and Rosenbauer regarding stock truck advantage

of money savings and ability to acquire the truck earlier. Plourde inquired about a quint truck. Belisle stated a quint truck has five functions, which you can get stock. Belisle estimated the cost to be 1.5 million with a 5% increase annually.

New Business

- Discussion/Consideration of 2027 Fire Dept. Budget: Line items were reviewed and discussed. Total 2027 budget is \$334,250 with the Town funding 47% and the Village funding 53%. The 2% dues are subtracted from each municipality's share. *Motion by Demulling, seconded by Garn to approve the 2027 Fire/Rescue Dept. Budget of \$334,250 with the Town's portion \$157,098 less 2% receipts of \$36,996 for a total of \$120,102 and the Village's portion \$177,153 less 2% receipts of \$22,076 for a total of \$155,077. Roll call vote: all in favor; none opposed with Crotty abstaining. Motion carried.*
- Review/Consideration of Special Calls Ordinance: Discussion. Kern asked if that would be tracked in the budget as a line item. Plourde stated the Town will be looking at an ordinance amendment at the next board meeting.
- Discussion of Available Grants: Belisle updated on FEMA grant and DNR grant for helmets. Firehouse Subs grant was denied.
- Discussion - TID No. 7 Ingress/Egress Access to 80th Street: Jeff Reynolds, Town engineer, reviewed the 80th Street access and requested a better map and average daily traffic counts. Germain commented that the additional traffic from two hundred homes accessing 80th Street raises site line concerns. Kern stated if the Town engineer would advise on the access location for site lines and safety, the Village can work with the Town's recommendation. Germain advised the Village stake their proposed location, and the Town will review with their engineer for a recommendation.

Next Meetings

- Fire/Rescue Commission Meeting, Wed., Jan. 20, 8 pm Fire Hall
- Joint Town, Village, Fire/Rescue Commission Meeting, Wed., January 27, 7 pm Village Hall

Adjourn

- *Motion by Garn, seconded by Kern to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.*

Jeri Koester,
Town Clerk