

**Town of Somerset & Village of Somerset  
with Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 27, 2010**

Town Chairman, Ed Schachtner, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Present were: Ed Schachtner, Doug Plourde, Lenny Germain, Larry Rauch, Jeff Johnson, Bartt Palmer, Greg Sayers, David Carufel, Ron Hill, Tom Roy, Rita Lawson, Travis Belisle. Absent: Shane Demulling, Bob Campbell, Ryan Sicard and Mike Hanks. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Plourde, seconded by Germain to approve the agenda. Motion carried. No public input.

Minutes from Joint Meeting: Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hill to approve the September 30, 2009 Minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report for 2009: Motion by Plourde, seconded by Sayers to approve the 2009 budget and financial report. Motion carried.

Old Business-Budget Split: Schachtner stated at last joint meeting it was discussed that the actual budget split is 53% Town and 47% Village, with the Town paying a little more of the share than the Village. The allocation of funds does not match up to the costs associated with the Town & Village. Schachtner stated when the Village & Town plan for their 2011 budgets, both boards should take into consideration a more equal split. Consensus was a new multi-year contract, defining a new budget split should be considered. Upcoming agenda item-work on new contract.

New Business-Somerset High School Group-~~STAND~~-Proclamation for Parents Who Host Lose the Most Program: Four students from the high school group ~~STAND~~ read a proclamation declaring the months of April & May "Parents who host lose the most-don't be a party to underage drinking." Jeff Johnson & Ed Schachtner signed the proclamations.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-Prairie Grass Restoration Project on Joint Property at 45<sup>th</sup> Street: Schachtner introduced Jim Reimer from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to discuss the proposed prairie grass restoration project at the joint property along 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Reimer stated parcel already has a prairie remnant, which makes it ideal for restoration. Reimer suggested augmenting what is already there by removing invasive trees, have fire department assist with a controlled burn, plant prairie grass varieties and develop a management plan at no cost to Town & Village. Reimer stated at least \$5,000 would be allocated for 2010 through different government programs, with another \$5,000 allocated in 2011. No cost to Town & Village; no tax dollars. Public hunting will not be prohibited on the property. Pheasant and other habitat would benefit from prairie restoration. No motorized vehicles, no ball fields, no buildings. Walking trails, educational site and hunting would be acceptable uses. Consensus was to start with 10 acres. Schachtner asked if boards were happy with the project and would like to add more acreage in the future, would that be possible with a new contract. Reimer stated it would be possible. Reimer asked boards to each designate a person to walk the site to help him determine the boundaries. An agreement called Landowner Obligation Agreement will be developed where invoices are submitted and reimbursement is made back to the municipality. Schachtner asked all board members if they agreed that the Town & Village dedicate this parcel to prairie grass restoration and sign a contract with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for this purpose. All board members unanimously agreed that the parcel be used for this purpose and the contract be signed at their February board meetings, respectively. Lenny Germain and David Carufel volunteered and

were selected to represent the Town & Village to work with Jim Reimer on this project. It was agreed to allocate the administration of invoices and payment requests through the Town.

Consideration of Contract with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for Prairie Grass Restoration Program:

Motion by Rauch, seconded by Plourde to move forward with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to approve a contract at the Town & Village February board meetings, respectively, for a prairie grass restoration project on the joint property along 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Contract with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service & Somerset Fire/Rescue Dept.: Motion by Germain, seconded by Carufel to allow the Somerset Fire/Rescue Dept. to go into contract with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to work on controlled burns; no payroll-donated time. Motion carried unanimously. Signed copies of contract to be given to Town & Village.

Consideration of Naming Joint Property Park: Next joint meeting agenda item.

Set Date & Time of Next Joint Meeting: Wednesday, April 28th, 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

Motion by Plourde, seconded by Hill to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Jeri Koester,  
Town Clerk