

**Town of Somerset  
Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 6, 2008**

**These Minutes are unofficial until approved at the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Chairman Schachtner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Plourde, Demulling, Gunderson, Germain and Schachtner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Input:** Ken Sortedahl, candidate for St. Croix County Judge, spoke on his campaign for office and his qualifications for the position. Rita Lawson inquired about the guardrail on 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Gunderson stated the guardrail will be installed.

**Clerk's & Treasurer's Reports:** Motion by Demulling, seconded by Plourde to approve the January 2<sup>nd</sup> Minutes. Motion carried. All members voted yes. Motion by Gunderson, seconded by Germain to approve the January Financial Report. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Building Inspector's Report:** Motion by Plourde, seconded by Demulling to approve the January Building Inspector's Report. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Animal Control Report:** Motion by Germain, seconded by Plourde to approve the Animal Control Report. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Fire/Rescue Commission Report:** 384 total calls for 2007. Discussion on Knox Box Ordinance. Motion by Gunderson, seconded by Demulling to have the Town attorney review Knox Box ordinance prior to adoption. March 5<sup>th</sup> agenda item. Tom Roy proposed removing the push-button lock from the front door and installing it on the rear Fire Hall door. Motion by Schachtner, seconded by Germain to approve the request with the condition that the Fire Dept. pays for the removal of the push-button lock and a lock for the front door, and the lock must be keyed to the Fire Hall door. Motion carried. All members voted yes. Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. was set as the tentative date for the next Town & Village joint meeting to be held at the Town Hall.

**Parks & Rec Committee Report:** Gunderson reported they are still working on the 5-Year Plan. Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was discussed. Motion by Gunderson, seconded by Plourde to send a letter of recommendation to the County to add County Road I North from the Village of Somerset limits to 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Motion carried. All members voted yes. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Germain to appoint Jean Hoffman to the Park & Rec Committee. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Old Business-Review Spreadsheet and Needs Assessment Study with Stevens**

**Engineers-Set Public Hearing Date:** Proposed residential impact fee is \$2,307.79 and commercial impact fee is \$559.91 per acre. Peeples to verify that attorney's suggested items are included and add "see fee schedule" for appeal fee. Motion by Plourde, seconded by Demulling to set a public hearing to consider the public facilities needs

assessment and adoption of an impact fee ordinance for Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 p.m. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Consideration of Ordinance 2008-02 Establishing Historic Town Hall Committee:**

Lawson presented a draft ordinance creating a Historic Town Hall Committee for the purpose of promoting and preserving the building. Committee to report quarterly at Town & Village joint meetings. Board instructed Lawson to add a statement that Town retains ownership of the building and property. Consideration of this ordinance and discussion on who controls the funds to be presented at joint Town & Village meeting.

**Town Hall Internet-Hard Wiring and Router Needs:** Motion by Plourde, seconded by Gunderson to have Shock-Ner Electric hard wire from Fire Dept. router to Town Hall office for both computers. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**New Business-School District of Somerset School Board Members-Presentation on April 1<sup>st</sup> Referendum:**

Sharon Germain, Allison Klis and Randy Rosburg were in attendance to discuss the upcoming referendum. Germain reported on enrollment in district. Allison Klis read the 35 million referendum question on April 1<sup>st</sup> ballot for new high school and improvements to middle school. Larry Rauch asked what is the additional operating levy of the proposed new high school; funds that are not included in the referendum. Klis responded that the school district is setting aside funds of \$75,000 this year. Rosburg added it takes approximately \$300,000 a year to operate each school building. Demulling asked what will be done with the \$75,000 if the referendum fails. Rosburg responded it will be used for portable classrooms and other needs in the district. Discussion on bonding, borrowing and property tax impact. Informational meetings will be held at the school district. Check the school's website.

**Stillwater Christian Fellowship-Appeal of 2007 Property Tax Due to Tax Exempt**

**Status:** Pastor Hieb requested the appeal under WSS 74.35. The assessor has worked with Hieb to get all of the necessary tax exempt forms filed. The Dept. of Revenue has agreed to approve the chargeback to all taxing authorities in proportion to the tax roll. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Plourde to refund \$4,417.21 to Stillwater Christian Fellowship for the first half and \$4,417.20 to St. Croix County Treasurer for the second half of 2007 taxes, with the chargeback to be filed with the Dept. of Revenue. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Wisconsin Town's Association District Meeting Attendance:** Germain, Plourde, Demulling, Schachtner and Koester will attend the meeting on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at Eau Claire for Board of Review certification.

**Remove and Replace Town Hall Ceiling Tile and Paint Grid:** Discussion on bid from Gaylen Schilling Construction. Board consensus was to have the Board and road crew do the interior work themselves.

**Letter of Support for Bass Lake Rehab. District-DNR Grant Application:** Motion by Gunderson, seconded by Plourde to approve a letter of support for the DNR Grant application by Bass Lake Rehab. District. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Planning Commission Report-Steve Pott/Washington Co. Sheriff Dept.-Purchase of Broadcast Tower:** Pott spoke on the need for upgrades for emergency communications. Tower will remain in its current form. The residents served by Lakeview Ambulance will benefit from the communication upgrade. No permits are needed from St. Croix County. Vern Jelle inquired if new owner will be monitoring the white strobe lights that sometimes go off at night. Pott stated site currently does not have emergency power and when there is an outage, the lights blink white. Emergency generators will be installed to alleviate this problem. Personnel will respond quickly if lights are malfunctioning. Discussion on security of tower and tax exempt status. Board had no opposition to the purchase and use of tower, as it is beneficial to the residents of the St. Croix Valley.

**Dennis Benson-Maintenance of Ponds in Prairie Estates Subdivision on Pine Lake:** All maintenance and responsibility of infiltration ponds is required by Benson for the first three years. Discussion on maintenance of ponds after three years. Ideas included deed restrictions, covenants that will be recorded, or developer's agreement stating purchaser of lot(s) acknowledge that developer will maintain ponds for three years and after that, the Town will oversee the ponds with the power to special assess lot owners for any repairs. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Gunderson that the Town agrees to accept overseeing the maintenance of the drainage ponds in Prairie Estates Subdivision three years after the developer dedicates the Town road and the Town accepts the ponds, with the condition that the Town has the authority to levy special assessments on all lot owners for the repair and maintenance of all the ponds. This agreement will be recorded in the covenants and as a deed restriction on all lots. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Dan Baillargeon-Special Exception Permit for a Contractor's Storage Yard in an Ag./Res. District:** Schachtner spoke with Dave Fodroczi regarding the County's approval without the Town's recommendation. Town Board will send a letter to Stan Krueger, Wallace Habegger, Lois Burri, Gene Reutz, Ronald Troyer, Linda Luckey, Charles Struemke, Sue Nelson, Jerome McAllister and Buck Malick regarding the Town's concerns with the special exception and zoning process for submission of Town recommendation and comments.

**New Town Subdivision Ordinance-Special Meeting to Review Draft:** A special meeting of the Planning Commission, Town Board and Ellen Denzer/County Planning & Zoning to review the new subdivision ordinance was scheduled for Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm-10 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Jeri Koester, Clerk

