

**Town of Somerset & Village of Somerset
(with Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission)
Joint Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 8, 2007**

Call to Order, Roll Call, Public Input, and Approval of Agenda: Town Chairman, Ed Schachtner, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Present: Ed Schachtner, Lenny Germain, Denise Gunderson, Doug Plourde, Shane Demulling, Jeff Johnson, Carol Switzer, Gerald Mullenberg, Bob Campbell, Greg Sayers, Tom Roy, Rita Lawson and Bartt Palmer. Absent: John Nash, Ryan Sicard and Ron Hill. Fire/Rescue Dept members present: Travis Belisle, Jason Crotty and Tim Kunze. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was no public input. Motion by Demulling, seconded by Gunderson to approve the agenda. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

Approval of Previous Joint Meeting Minutes: Motion by Johnson, seconded by Mullenberg to approve the April 25, 2007 Joint Meeting Minutes with the correction that under Fire/Rescue Mutual Aid Agreement it reads “an automatic aid agreement with New Richmond Fire” (not New Richmond EMS/Star Prairie First Responders). Motion carried. All members voted yes.

Financial Report: Discussion on DNR grant, truck maintenance-rescue truck maintenance over \$3,000 this year. Motion by Roy, seconded by Plourde to approve the Financial Report up to October 1, 2007. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

Old Business: 5-Year Equipment Plan: Belisle presented the 5-year Equipment Plan with replacement costs. Belisle asked if Boards wanted today’s value or replacement value of equipment. Board consensus was replacement costs. Belisle was advised to obtain a price at today’s cost and project out, because this planning is necessary for budgeting purposes. All board members agreed the 5-Year Equipment Plan on an Excel spreadsheet would be visually easier for comparison. Belisle will work on a spreadsheet with replacement costs to be presented at next joint meeting.

Apple River Bridge Crossing: Village has no plans for any crossing at this time. Johnson will inquire with Cedar Corporation as to where the best place for an emergency crossing bridge (not another traffic artery) would be. Next joint meeting’s agenda.

DSL Internet at Town Hall: After some discussion, it was agreed Town will pay initial cost on DSL and bill Fire Dept. for 50% of the cost.

Fire Dept. Insurance Quotes: VFIS savings of \$790.00. Fire Dept. has been happy with VFIS so their decision is to stay with them.

New Business: Village Outdoor Recreation Plan-Trails & Grants: Johnson stated Village is still working on plan.

Community Planning & Input for the Somerset Area’s Vision: Bill Lawson spoke of the different groups getting together and coordinating growth of the area. Lawson stated the various boards need to discuss this issue with their Planning Commissions. Group is looking for more representatives to join their meetings. Doug Rivard, Chairman-Town of Star Prairie, spoke on intergovernmental cooperation and communication in developing the area. Peggy Grubbs emphasized the importance of a common vision. Next meeting at River’s Edge on November 7th from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Somerset Legacy Alliance-Proposal for old Town Hall Committee and 2008 Budget: Ruth Steiner stated the SLA Committee is proposing an old Town Hall Committee to manage the historic site consisting of 1 Town Board member, 1 Village Board member, 1 Somerset Library Board member and 4 members at-large. Committee will write policies for use and maintenance of the old Town Hall. Peter Johnson proposed an \$8,075.00 annual budget to be split between Town and Village. Motion by Gunderson, seconded by Mullenberg to approve an old Town Hall Committee as proposed. Discussion on terms to this committee being two-years, because elected positions are two-year terms. Committee to report quarterly at joint Town & Village meetings. Motion carried. All members voted yes. Consensus of both Town & Village Board was to wait on the budget request until next joint meeting.

Ordinance Proposal Requiring Knox Boxes for Businesses: Belisle stated this ordinance is a rough draft for new businesses or businesses changing ownership. Knox Boxes cost approximately \$200.00 and contain keys to access buildings in case of fires. Belisle asked Boards to review draft ordinance and bring it to their monthly board meetings, respectively. No action taken.

2007 Budget Overages for Truck Maintenance and Payroll: Belisle stated truck maintenance is currently \$2,000-\$2,500 over budget and payroll is over budget due to increased run volume and three structure fires. Discussion on donations and fundraising, under budget in training, billing insurance companies, budgeted cost of turnout gear. Board consensus was to meet in December to see what the payroll and truck maintenance actual expense for 2007 is at year-end.

Brush Truck Overage: Overage was \$487.39 and has been paid out of Fire Dept. fundraising account. April 25, 2007 Joint Meeting Minutes state that the \$3,000 excess funds designated to be used to update the equipment on the truck. Gunderson left meeting at 9:00 p.m.

2% Money Shortage: Town deficit was \$473.11; Village deficit was \$32.78 from what was budgeted for and what was actually received.

2008 Fire/Rescue Budget: Much discussion on truck maintenance, 2% Fire Dues, 2008 proposed budget and percentage increase. Motion by Mullenberg, seconded by Sayers to approve the total 2008 Fire/Rescue Dept. budget at \$178,315 minus 2% Fire Dues (other offsetting revenues) of \$27,882 for a net cost to be assessed 2008 budget at \$150,433, with the 55% Town portion at \$82,738 - \$11,085 (2% dues) for a total annual payment of \$71,653 and the 45% Village portion at \$67,695 - \$6,157 (2% dues) for a total annual payment of \$61,538.

Door Locks Into Fire Hall: Schachtner stated the lock into the Fire Hall will be keyed and locked to ensure no access from the Town Hall.

Parking Lot Sign-Not a Through-Road: Board consensus was for Belisle to obtain vehicle license plate information and report it.

Set Date for Next Joint Meeting: Agenda items: truck maintenance and payroll over budget actual expenses for 2007, old Town Hall Committee 2008 budget and appointment of committee members, Apple River Bridge crossing, Knox Box Ordinance status and 5-Year Equipment Plan on Excel spreadsheet. Wednesday, December 12th, 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall set as next joint meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Jeri Koester, Town Clerk

