

**Town of Somerset & Village of Somerset &  
Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission  
Joint Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 31, 2007**

**Call to Order & Roll Call:** Supervisor Plourde called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Town Hall. Present: Doug Plourde, Shane Demulling, Lenny Germain, Denise Gunderson (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Jeff Johnson, Nancy Vanasse, Ryan Sicard, Carol Switzer, Jerry Mullenberg, Bartt Palmer, Rita Lawson, Tom Roy, Fire Chief-Travis Belisle, and Treasurer-Brian Duggan. Absent: Ed Schachtner, Jeff Thanig, and John Nash.

**Approval of Agenda & Pledge of Allegiance:** Motion by Demulling, seconded by Germain to approve the agenda. Motion carried. All members voted yes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Minutes from Previous Joint Meeting-September 28, 2006:** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Mullenberg to approve the September 28, 2006 Minutes. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Old Business-Land Use Planning at County Road I/On-Off Ramps by School:** Johnson stated Cedar Corp. is working on incorporating the Village's desire to have on/off ramps at County Road I into the official map. Johnson stated if the Apple River Bridge ever goes out, the on/off ramps would provide an entrance/exit to the Village accessible from the Fire Dept. Discussion on surrounding Town land and number of acres required for this project, along with costs. No action taken. Item on next agenda: On/Off ramps at County Road I by school and land use planning for possible interchange.

**Old Town Hall Usage and Water Source:** Sicard reported that the building would have to be metered. Installation and water bills would be charged to the Town. Johnson stated that with no heat in the building, the pipes would rupture. Plourde suggested when usage of hall is determined, the need for water can be further discussed. At the current time, the water would be used mainly for landscaping purposes. No action taken. (Gunderson arrived-7: 30 p.m.)

**Financial Report:** Financial report for 2006 was reviewed. Gunderson commented on insurance expense and suggested getting quotes from other companies for comparison. Motion by Vanasse, seconded by Mullenberg to accept the 2006 Financial Report. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Brush Truck Purchase:** Belisle estimated cost to be \$30,000. Village has \$15,000 budget and Town had \$15,000 budgeted in 2006. Motion by Mullenberg, seconded by Demulling to approve the purchase of a brush truck not to exceed \$30,000 for a chassis and having equipment transferred over by Foreman, with the Village paying \$13,500 and the Town paying \$16,500 (45% - 55% split). Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Fire/Rescue Dept. Bylaws:** Bylaws have been cleaned up and approved by the Fire/Rescue Dept. members and the Fire/Rescue Commission. Once Bylaws are signed, copies will be forwarded to the Town and Village. Next meeting agenda item: Present signed copies of Bylaws to both municipalities. Discuss drug testing as an amendment to Bylaws (costs and legalities).

**Discussion over Joint Dumpsite Property Use:** Gunderson stated Town and Village need to collaborate on usage of joint property. Gunderson urged all Village Board members to “walk” the property. Property is approximately 55 acres and rolling. Possible walking trail system. Gunderson suggested Town & Village Park & Rec Committees meet jointly on this issue. Boards discussed no motorized vehicle use on property. Next agenda-Post dumpsite property “No Motorized Vehicles” as they cause erosion to prairie grass and may affect soil and water erosion, as well as a safety issue.

**New Business-Request to Receive Contract Payments from Town & Village Bi-annually Instead of Quarterly:** Belisle explained Fire/Rescue Dept. needs more money to operate at the beginning of the year. Boards discussed one annual payment versus quarterly or bi-annual payments. Motion by Sicard, seconded by Johnson to pay the Fire/Rescue Contract bi-annually the first week of January and the first week of August. Motion carried. All members voted yes.

**Budget Overspending of \$1,168.28 by Fire/Rescue Dept.:** Duggan and Belisle explained \$3,000 in checking at year-end was left from 2004. Overspending of the 2006 budget was \$1,168.28. Plourde recommended researching history of the \$3,000 earmarked from 2004. Maybe it can be applied to 2006 budget as a carryover. Otherwise, municipalities will have to be asked to make up the overspending. No action taken.

**5-Year Equipment Plan:** Boards reviewed 5-year equipment plan. Plourde requested a cost estimate for each piece of equipment (at today’s cost) be added to the 5-year plan so the municipalities can see how much money it will take to replace these items for budgeting purposes. Estimate costs are fine; no bids have to be obtained.

**Long-range Plan:** Long-range Plan was reviewed. No action taken.

**Somerset Fire/Rescue Dept. Possibly Covering into Town of Star Prairie:** Belisle met with NR Fire Chief-preliminary discussion. Mutual aid agreement would result in faster response times and lower homeowner’s premiums for some residents. Town of Star Prairie would have to approve this arrangement and offer some type of compensation for Somerset’s service.

**2008-75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fire Dept.:** Looking for any old pictures. Celebration to coincide with Pea Soup Days.

Tom Roy reminded Village Board members that the Fire/Rescue Commission needs a citizen at-large from the Village.

Motion by Sicard, seconded by Germain to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Jeri Koester,  
Town Clerk

