

# The Borough of Somerset Council Meeting October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – President Ream.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call:**

a) **Borough Council Members present:** *Pam Ream, Lee Hoffman, Ian Mandichak and Mario Dirienzo.*

b) **Borough Council Members absent:** *Sue Opp, and Steve Shaulis.*

c. **Also present:** *Mayor Fred Rosemeyer.*

d) **Also present were the following:** *Borough Manager, Michele Enos; Municipal Authority Manager, Jessica Sizemore; Administrative Assistant, Roger Bailey; Director of Finance, Brett Peters; Assistant Director of Finance, Matthew Franciscus; Chief of Police, Rich Appel; Solicitor Lois Caton and Consulting Engineers, Tom Reilly & Jake Bolby.*

e) **Public Attendance:** *Alec Bittner, Pete Barnhart, and Lori Barnhart.*

4. **Approval of Agenda:** *Consider approving the agenda with the additional item of Swearing-In of Officer Firestone.*

## **Motion**

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded, to approve the agenda with the additional item of Swearing-In of Officer Firestone.

Motion Unanimously Carried

5. **Announcements:**

a) *None*

6. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

a) *September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 – Borough Council Meeting Minutes.*

## **Motion**

Mr. Hoffman moved, Mr. Mandichak seconded, to approve the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 Borough Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

**7. Award of Bids:**

a) None

**8. General Public Comments:**

a) Timothy Iman -

Mr. Iman spoke in behalf of his son, claiming his son's 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights were violated by one of the Borough Police Officers when his son was in Somerset Borough. Mr. Iman explained the incident to Council.

**9. Administrative Business:**

a) Communications – (none)

b) Payment of Bills – Month of October 2025.

**Motion:**

Mr. Dirienzo moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded, to approve the payment of bills for the month of October 2025 numbered 43885 – 44102 totaling \$1,054,897.05.

Motion Unanimously Carried

c) Department Reports – Consider approving the Departmental Reports for the month of September 2025.

**Motion**

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mr. Dirienzo seconded, to approve the Departmental Reports for the month of September 2025.

Motion Unanimously Carried

**10. Policy Agenda:**

**Old Business:**

a) None

**New Business:**

a) Resolution No. 2025-08 – Authorizing the deposit of Commonwealth monies into our Borough Pension Plans.

Ms. Enos stated that this is something that is done annually for full-time qualifying personnel in all funds, and is required to deposit these monies by resolution. This is State

funding that we receive from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They are deposited in accordance with our actuary's recommendations.

The breakdown is as follows: \$70,599.00 will be allocated to the Non-Uniform Collective Bargaining Pension Plan, \$154,575.78 will be allocated to the Non-Collective Bargaining Pension Plan and \$101,443.00 will be allocated to the Police Pension Plan.

**Motion**

Mr. Hoffman moved, Mr. Mandichak seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2025-08 authorizing the deposit of Commonwealth monies into the Borough Pension Plans.

Motion Unanimously Carried

**Borough of Somerset**  
**Resolution No. 2025 -08**

***WHEREAS***, the Borough of Somerset has received a direct deposit from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania dated September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in the amount of Three Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Seventeen and 78/100 (\$326,617.78) Dollars, representing the Commonwealth's allocation from the General Municipal Pension State Aid Program, and;

***WHEREAS***, Act 205 of 1984 provides that pension allocations must be deposited in the Municipal Pension Plan within thirty (30) days of receipt by the Municipal Treasurer, and;

***WHEREAS***, the governing body must determine by Resolution the amount to be distributed into its various plans;

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that Seventy Thousand, Five Hundred Ninety-Nine and 00/100 (\$70,599.00) Dollars be allocated to the Non-Uniformed Collective Bargaining Pension Plan; One Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred Seventy-Five and 78/100 (\$154,575.78) Dollars be allocated to the Non-Collective Bargaining Pension Plan; and One Hundred One Thousand, Four Hundred Forty-Three and 00/100 (\$101,443.00) Dollars be allocated to the Police Pension Plan.

***ADOPTED*** this 27th day of October 2025.

b) Resolution No. 2025-09 – *Eliminating member contributions to the Police Pension Plan for year 2026.*

Ms. Enos noted that this action was evaluated by our actuary as well. At this time, the MMO (Minimum Municipal Obligation) and the State aid will be sufficient, so there is no need for collecting any money from employees. The elimination of member contributions must be enacted by a resolution for the year 2026.

**Motion**

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded, to eliminate member contributions to the Police Pension Plan for year 2026.

Motion Unanimously Carried

**Borough of Somerset**  
**Resolution No. 2025-09**

***WHEREAS***, Ordinance No. 1144, Section XI relating to the Police Pension Fund states that the monthly contributions for participants may be reduced or eliminated by an annual Resolution if an actuarial study annually indicates that such reductions or elimination for that year will not adversely affect the actuarial soundness of the fund, and;

***WHEREAS***, a letter from Lori R. Owen, QPA, Consultant, Dunbar, Bender & Zapf, Inc., dated September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, states “that the Borough may eliminate employee contributions in the Police Plan for 2026 ...

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the five (5) percent contributions from Police Officers for the year 2026 be eliminated.

***ADOPTED*** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.

c) Resolution No. 2025-10 – *Consider approving the updated 2025 Emergency Operations Plan.*

Ms. Enos said that our Emergency Operations Plan must be updated every two years and must be done by Resolution.

**Motion**

Mrs. Ream moved, Mr. Dirienzo seconded, to approve the updated 2025 Emergency Operations Plan.

Motion Unanimously Carried

*Borough of Somerset*  
*Resolution No. 2025-10*

**THIS RESOLUTION** approved and adopted by the Council of Somerset Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, on the date here forth.

**WITNESS TO:**

**WHEREAS**, Section 7503 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. Section 7101 et seq. mandates that Somerset Borough prepare, maintain and keep current an emergency operations plan for the prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by a major emergency or disaster within this Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the mandate stated above, this Borough has prepared an emergency operations plan to provide prompt and effective emergency response procedures to be followed in the event of a major emergency or disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, this Borough has also prepared an emergency operations plan in order to reduce the potential affects of a major emergency or disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of this Borough.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the undersigned Council of Somerset Borough do hereby approve, adopt and place into immediate effect the Emergency Operations Plan of Somerset Borough. This Plan shall be reviewed every two years to make certain that it conforms to the requirements of the Somerset County Emergency Operations Guideline.

**APPROVED**, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025

*d) Council Member Vacancy – Letter of Interest was submitted by Lori Barnhart to seek appointment to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Ruby Miller.*

**Motion**

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mr. Dirienzo seconded, to approve the appointment of Lori Barnhart to fill the vacancy of Borough Council left by the passing of Ruby Miller.

Motion Unanimously Carried

e) Municipal Authority Vacancy – Letter of Interest was submitted by Todd Thomas to seek appointment to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Ruby Miller.

**Motion**

Mr. Dirienzo moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded, to approve the appointment of Todd Thomas to fill the vacancy of the Municipal Authority Board left by the passing of Ruby Miller.

Motion Unanimously Carried

f) Terry & Elizabeth A. Fitzgerald – The Planning Commission is recommending the approval of the minor subdivision.

**Motion**

Mr. Hoffman moved, Mr. Dirienzo seconded, to approve the minor subdivision for the property of Terry & Elizabeth Fitzgerald.

Motion Unanimously Carried

g) Mayor Rosemeyer – Is requesting that Council consider increasing the compensation allowable for Borough Mayors and Council Members due to the recent passing of PA Act 131 which allows for an increase.

Mayor Rosemeyer stated that it has been 35 years since Borough Mayors and Council Members were permitted an increase in their pay. He said he is asking that Borough Council consider an increase.

Ms. Enos noted that, currently, the pay is \$2,000.00 a year for a Borough Council Member, and \$4,000.00 a year for the Mayor. Currently, the maximum for Council Members is \$4,190.00 a year, and \$8,385.00 for the Mayor.

**Motion**

Mr. Hoffman moved, Mr. Mandichak seconded, to increase the compensation allowable for Borough Mayors and Council Members based on PA Act 131, which allows for an increase.

(Mr. Hoffman & Mr. Mandichak voted “yes”)

(Mr. Dirienzo & Mrs. Ream voted “No”)

2 “yes” votes - 2 “no” votes

Motion Does Not Carry

Mrs. Ream said that this subject will be revisited at next month’s Council Meeting when more Council Members are present and it is reviewed by Solicitor Caton.

**Committee Business/Reports:**

*h) Borough Manager's Report – Given by Michele Enos.*

*Ms. Enos had nothing further to report.*

*i) Finance Report – Given by Brett Peters.*

Mr. Peters provided Borough Council with the year-to-date Financial Report through September 2025. We are 9/12<sup>th</sup>s of the way through the year or 75.00%.

<b><u>General Fund:</u></b>	<b><u>Water Fund:</u></b>	<b><u>Sewer Fund:</u></b>	<b><u>Storm Sewer Fund:</u></b>
<i>Revenues – 95.33%</i>	<i>Revenues – 73.94%</i>	<i>Revenues – 66.91%</i>	<i>Revenues – 44.24%</i>
<i>Expenses – 76.89%</i>	<i>Expenses – 73.13%</i>	<i>Expenses – 69.01%</i>	<i>Expenses – 0.09%</i>

Mr. Peters introduced Mr. Matthew Franciscus, the new Assistant Director of Finance, to Borough Council Members.

*j) Municipal Authority Manager's Report – Given by Jess Sizemore.*

Mrs. Sizemore mentioned that a full grant of over \$16 million dollars was awarded for Phase 1B of the Sanitary Sewer Project. She added that there would be no repayment. She thanked the EADS Group for helping in making this possible.

She also mentioned that the Lieutenant Governor's Office would be reaching out to the Municipal Authority to do a Public Relations piece on the Sewer Project.

Mrs. Sizemore also mentioned that another grant was submitted to the Coalition of Oral Health, which was awarded as well. She added that the grant funding would help with the fluoride treatment equipment that needs replaced. That grant amount awarded was \$12,600.00.

*k) President's Report – Given by Pam Ream.*

Mrs. Ream also thanked EADS for their help in getting the grant money for the Sewer Project, and added, that it was much appreciated.

*l) Somerset Inc. Report – Given by Lee Hoffman.*

Mr. Hoffman stated that the next upcoming event is "Light Up Night" on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Planning also continues for the "Fire & Ice" Festival in mid-January 2026.

Also, the work continues on "Diamond Row." Mr. Hoffman thanked the Borough for their continued support.

m) PSAB Report – Given by Fred Rosemeyer.

Mayor Rosemeyer stated that there was nothing to report for PSAB.

He mentioned that there were 12 separate Borough's present at the recent County Boroughs Association's meeting.

n) Somerset Volunteer Fire Dept. Report – Given by Steve Shaulis.

Mr. Shaulis was not in attendance, so no report was given.

o) Engineer's Report – Given by Jake Bolby.

Mr. Bolby presented the Updates to the Engineer's Report.

### **WATER:**

#### **1) Water System Capital Improvement Projects:**

Mr. Bolby mentioned that the Water Project is in the close-out phase.

He also noted that an active water project to drill a new line under the stream and the roadway is taking place on N. Pleasant. The pipe will be connected next week.

### **SEWER:**

#### **1) Assessment, Repair, and Abatement Plan (Hydraulic Overload):**

Mr. Bolby said that the contractor is mobilized in town and is focusing on Phase 1A, which is West & Brierwood. It is moving along and on schedule.

**Phase 1B** has been funded. Advertisement will be November 30, 2025 with open bids for this project January 8, 2025. Open application for **Phase 1C** will be in February 2026, and then **Phase 1D** will be approximately 6 months after that.

### **GENERAL:**

#### **1) Center Ave. Revitalization Project):**

Mr. Bolby said that the scheduling and coordination to have Center Ave. clear and available for next year's upcoming Fire Department Convention is being discussed.

Mr. Bolby also mentioned that the contractor will be replacing the damaged sidewalks in the Spring of 2026. They have been committed to being finished and gone in May 2026.

p) Mayor's Report – Given by Mayor Rosemeyer.

Mayor Rosemeyer noted that a request came in for a Borough Police Officer who wants to change their status from full-time to part-time. Mayor Rosemeyer disclosed that three Officers, who are currently in the Academy, are interested in working for Somerset Borough Police Department upon graduation.

**11. Executive Session: Personnel Matters and Potential Litigation.**

**Motion**

Mr. Hoffman moved, seconded by Mr. Mandichak, to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters and Potential Litigation.

Motion Unanimously Carried  
5:40 p.m.

**Back in Session**

5:53 p.m.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

Mr. Mandichak moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mr. Dirienzo.

Motion Unanimously Carried  
5:58 p.m.

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Michele A. Enos, Borough Manager/ Secretary