

The Borough of Somerset Council Meeting

December 15th, 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, Sue Opp, Ian Mandichak and Mario Dirienzo.*

b) **Borough Council Members absent:** *Lori Barnhart and Steve Shaulis.*

c) **Also absent:** *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.*

4. **Approval of Agenda:** *Consider approving the agenda with the addition of considering Somerset Borough's yearly donation to the Somerset Area Ambulance Association.*

Motion

Mr. Dirienzo moved, Mr. Mandichak seconded, to approve the agenda with the addition of considering Somerset Borough's yearly donation to the Somerset Area Ambulance Association.

Motion Unanimously Carried

5. **Announcements:**

a) *None*

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

a) *November 24th, 2025 – Borough Council Meeting Minutes.*

Motion

Mr. Dirienzo moved, Mrs. Opp seconded, to approve the November 24th, 2025 Borough Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

7. Award of Bids:

a) None

8. General Public Comments:

a) None requested

9. Administrative Business:

a) Communications – (none)

b) Payment of Bills – Month of December 2025.

Motion:

Mr. Hoffman moved, Mr. Mandichak seconded, to approve the payment of bills for the month of November 2025 numbered 44220 – 44281 totaling \$607,039.06.

Motion Unanimously Carried

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

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded, to approve the Departmental Reports for the month of November 2025.

Motion Unanimously Carried

10. Policy Agenda:

Old Business:

a) None

New Business:

a) 2026 Sewage Enforcement Officer Rates – Consider approving the updated rates schedule for Sewage Enforcement. This is through agreement for services with the EADS Group.

Motion

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mrs. Opp seconded, to approve the updated rates schedule for Sewage Enforcement. This is through agreement for services with the EADS Group.

Motion Unanimously Carried

b) Resolution No. 2025-14 – Designating a Certified Public Accountant to audit the Borough Accounts for year 2025.

Ms. Enos stated that the change on the 2025-14 Resolution is set up for the appointment of Beer Ream & Company to audit the Borough's accounts for the year 2025. Our current CPA, Friedline, Pipon & Company who has done the Borough's accounts for years, is no longer performing these services.

She said that the Borough has received quotes to do both the Municipal Authority audit and the Borough audit. Their estimated fee to complete the auditing will not exceed \$8,500.00 for the first year, which is the costliest, being the baseline year.

Ms. Enos added that the staff met with this company, and is recommending this local auditing firm to Borough Council.

Motion

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mr. Dirienzo seconded, to designate Beer Ream & Company to be the designated Certified Public Accountant to audit the Borough Accounts for year 2025.

Motion Unanimously Carried

BOROUGH OF SOMERSET
RESOLUTION No. 2025-14

WHEREAS, The Borough of Somerset has by ordinance established the use of Certified Public Accountants to audit Borough Accounts, and;

NOW THEREFORE, We, the Council and Mayor of the Borough of Somerset designate Beer Ream Co. to audit Borough Accounts for the year 2025.

ADOPTED this 15th day of December 2025.

c) Resolution No. 2025-15 – To adopt and set the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2026.

Ms. Enos stated that, after review of the Borough’s accounts during the budget process, there will be no real estate tax increase for year 2026. 19.4 mills will be maintained. This includes 18.29 mills for General purposes, .666 mills for the Mary S. Biesecker Public Library and .444 mills for Somerset Volunteer Fire Department purposes.

Motion

Mr. Dirienzo moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded, to adopt and set the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2026.

Motion Unanimously Carried

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-15

AN RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2026

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Somerset, Somerset County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

THAT a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all real property within the Borough of Somerset, subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2026 as follows:

SECTION 1. Tax Rate for General Purposes, the sum of 18.29 on each one thousand dollars of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$ 1.829 on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

SECTION 2. For Mary S. Biesecker Public Library purposes, the sum of .666 mills on each one thousand dollars of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$.0666 on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

SECTION 3. For Somerset Volunteer Fire Department purposes, the sum of .444 mills on each one thousand dollars of assessed valuation, or the sum of \$.0444 on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

SECTION 4. All other municipal tax rates are to remain unchanged.

SECTION 5. That any Resolution, or part of Resolution, conflicting with this Resolution, be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Resolution.

MILLS ON EACH DOLLAR OF ASSESSED VALUATION

Tax Rate for General Purposes	18.29 Mills
Tax Rate for Mary S. Biesecker Public Library purposes	.666 Mills

Tax Rate for Somerset Volunteer
Fire Department Purposes

.444 Mills

TOTAL:

19.40 Mills

Adopted this 15th day of December, 2025

d) 2026 Final Budgets– *Adopting the final budgets for year 2026 as presented.*

Motion

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mrs. Opp seconded, to adopt the final budgets for year 2026 as presented.

Motion Unanimously Carried

e) Donation Request – *Meals on Wheels is requesting a donation for 2026. (\$250.00 was given in 2025)*

After discussion, Borough Council elected to approve this request.

Motion

Mr. Dirienzo moved, Mr. Mandichak seconded, to provide Meals on Wheels with a donation of \$400.00 for the year 2026.

Motion Unanimously Carried

f) Donation Request – *Humane Society is requesting a donation for 2026. (\$500.00 was given in 2025)*

After discussion, Borough Council approved this request.

Motion

Mr. Hoffman moved, Mr. Dirienzo seconded, to donate \$400.00 to the Humane Society for the year 2026.

Motion Carried (6 yes – 1 no)

(1 Opposed – Sue Opp)

g) Donation Request - *Somerset Area Ambulance for 2026.*

Motion

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mrs. Ream seconded, to approve the Somerset Area Ambulance Association donation of a quarterly contribution of \$1,000.00, for a total of \$4,000.00 for the year 2026.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Committee Business/Reports:

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

Ms. Enos stated that she was holding comments that needed to be discussed with Council for Executive Session.

i) Finance Report – Given by Brett Peters.

Mr. Peters provided Borough Council with the year-to-date Financial Report through November 2025. We are 11/12ths of the way through the year or 91.67%.

<u>General Fund:</u>	<u>Water Fund:</u>	<u>Sewer Fund:</u>	<u>Storm Sewer Fund:</u>
Revenues – 102.81%	Revenues – 89.83%	Revenues – 102.91%	Revenues – 59.89%
Expenses – 89.27%	Expenses – 95.61%	Expenses – 178.46%	Expenses – 0.09%

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

Mrs. Sizemore said that a Public Meeting for residents who fall within the project area of Phase 1B of the Sewer Project, the Central Business District, will be held at the Public Safety Building on February 12th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

k) President’s Report – Given by Pam Ream.

Mrs. Ream commented that “Light Up” Night was great.

A discussion was also held about snow being pushed from yards into the streets by residents, obstructing the roadway. It was noted that there are Borough regulations regarding this and should not be done by residents.

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

Mr. Hoffman mentioned that “Fire & Ice” is approximately 1 month away. He added that this year’s theme is Somerset County History, which will include historical performances and reenactments.

Mr. Hoffman also mentioned that work continues on the old Brinker Building. Somerset Inc. will meet on February 3rd, 2026 where the next steps will be planned for the building.

m) PSAB Report – Given by Fred Rosemeyer.

Mayor Rosemeyer was absent, so there was nothing to report for PSAB.

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

Mr. Shaulis was absent, so there was nothing to report for the Fire Department.

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 coming to a close. They are waiting on PENNVEST and DEP to complete it. Everything is in its warranty period.

SEWER:

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

Mr. Bolby said that the Sewer Project is continuing.

p) Mayor's Report – Given by Mayor Rosemeyer.
Mayor Rosemeyer was absent, so there was no Mayor's Report.

11. Executive Session: To discuss FOP Collective Bargaining matters.

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved, seconded by Mr. Dirienzo to go into Executive Session to discuss FOP Collective Bargaining matters.

Motion Unanimously Carried
5:34 p.m.

Back in Session

6:31 p.m.

Mrs. Ream asked for a motion to provide a 4% increase to those in Management positions for Somerset Borough and Somerset Borough Water Authority.

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved, seconded by Mr. Dirienzo to provide a 4% increase to those in Management positions for Somerset Borough and Somerset Borough Water Authority.

Motion Unanimously Carried

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mr. Mandichak.

Motion Unanimously Carried
6:34 p.m.

Michele A. Enos, Borough Manager/ Secretary