



NEWSLETTER

Connecting with Your Community

7511 12th Street, Somers, Wisconsin 53171

Issue 5: November, 2016



SOMERS VILLAGE AND TOWN HALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Friday, December 23, 2016—CLOSED

Monday, December 26, 2016—CLOSED

Friday, December 30, 2016—CLOSED

Monday, January 2, 2017—CLOSED

2017 BUDGET FOCUSES ON SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

The 2017 budget focuses on service excellence in public works, public safety, strong financial health, and a new component in the Somers annual budget—a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The new CIP assures that Somers equipment and infrastructure are current in technology, product life cycle, operating efficiency, and reliability. See pages 2 and 3 for details.

TOTAL PROPOSED 2017 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET \$4,055,223.

\$1,622,917 PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire and Rescue, Building Inspection, Dog Catcher

\$1,181,922 GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Boards, Courts, Staff, Clerk/Treasurer, Elections, Assessor, Audit, Legal, Engineering, Membership dues, Advertising, Publications, Buildings, Property & Liability Insurance, Debt Payments

\$574,043 SOLID WASTE

Garbage and Recycling

\$551,809 PUBLIC WORKS

Roads, Streets, Storm Sewer, Street Lighting

\$41,791 CONTINGENCY RESERVE

Financial policy requires minimum of 17% of audited General Fund operating expenditures.

\$46,176 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Plan Commission, Boards of Appeal,

\$36,565 PARKS & RECREATION

Youth Softball, Basketball, Soccer programs, and Parks Committee

BUDGET CHANGES RESULT IN CONTINUAL ENHANCEMENT IN QUALITY OF THE VILLAGE AND TOWN

The 2017 budget, for the first time in Somers history, includes a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and a general operating budget that includes compliance of Somers new financial policies. This was the result of a decision by the newly elected Trustees to reverse the December 31, 2013 operating deficit of \$(497,088) and the December 31, 2014 operating deficit of \$(225,371).

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUDGET. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Major projects requiring capital investment will now be funded through the Capital Improvement Plan budget rather than through the general operating budget.

- **The CIP helps keep tax rates stable over a period of time.**
- **The CIP also stabilizes debt as expensive projects are pro-actively planned and staged over time, avoiding reacting to surprise emergencies on a year-to-year basis.**

For example, expensive projects such as the \$500,000 road CIP budget below, will be funded through bonds. Roads have an average life expectancy of approximately 25 years. Budgeting roads in the CIP fulfills the Trustee's objective of having future users, who will benefit from using the roads, pay their share of the costs of improvement.

2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUDGET MAJOR COMPONENTS

\$500,000 SOMERS ROADS AND STREETS

- Somers has not had a major street project in seven years; however, the Village began improvements in 2016. The new 10-year CIP prioritizes which streets will be upgraded. Trustees have designated approximately \$500,000 per year as part of what will be an on-going street improvement program. See page 5 for Somers street and road improvement details.

\$175,000 ADMINISTRATION

- \$110,000. Financial Management software. Our financial software, purchased in 2005, is obsolete and unsupported, meaning we no longer have the ability to upload new features or newer versions. Older software is also more vulnerable to viruses and hackers. The new financial software will provide complete accounting for the general operating fund, utility district #1, utility district #2, water utility, and tax incremental districts #1 and #2.
- \$65,000. Global Imaging System (GIS) hardware and software. Somers currently maintains paper copy of infrastructure (water utility, wastewater system, streets and roads) engineering maps, drawings, and documents. Converting from manual recordkeeping of the Village and Town infrastructure to electronic format will improve efficiency in the storage, editing, sharing, and displaying of information.

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES RESULT IN CONTINUAL ENHANCEMENT IN QUALITY OF THE VILLAGE AND TOWN (P.2)

\$235,000 PUBLIC SAFETY

- \$30,000.00. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). These units are used by fire-fighters and rescue staff on the majority of emergency calls. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards call for replacement every 15 years. Presently, we have 30 units that will be 13 years old and we are in need of 10 additional units. New units are approximately \$3,750 each. \$30,000 per year will be budgeted in the CIP for the next five years.
- \$205,000. 2017 four-wheel drive ambulance. The new ambulance will replace a 2000 ambulance that, after 16 years, is nearing its life expectancy. The ambulance is expected to be delivered first quarter 2017 and it will be the first four-wheel drive ambulance in Somers history.

\$256,000 PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT

- \$170,000. Dump truck with plow. The new truck will replace a 2000 truck that, after 16 years, is nearing its life expectancy.
- \$ 36,000. Pick-up truck. The new truck will replace a 2001 truck that, after 15 years, is nearing its life expectancy.
- \$50,000. 13th Avenue washout repair. Storm water has caused washout and undermining of the road and bank near the 13th Avenue bridge that crosses the Pike River south of Kenosha Country Club. The bridge is scheduled to be replaced in 2018.

\$985,000 WATER, SANITARY, AND STORM WATER UTILITY

- \$750,000. A secondary municipal water supply will be installed to First Park 94 Industrial Park which will result in improving fire protection needs inside the park perimeter.
- \$200,000. Upgrade lining and repairs will be made to existing sanitary sewer systems installed in the 1950's in the Country Charm/Highwood Heights area.
- \$ 35,000. 11th Place lift station. The lift station, established in the 1950's, is nearing its life expectancy. This engineering cost is budgeted in 2017. Replacement will be budgeted 2018.

\$ 120,000 PARKS

- Three new light poles with LED lights will replace 40-year old light poles and lamps at the softball field at Somers Memorial Park where hundreds of youth play summer softball and attend soccer camps. A generous donation of \$10,000 was received from Festival Foods to be used toward the payment of the new softball lights. The community of Somers very much appreciates their generosity. Somers will re-apply for a grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund in 2017, requesting funds to help reduce the cost to the Village.

PUBLIC WORKS: 44 YEAR OLD WATER MAIN REPLACED ON 22ND AVENUE

Aging and weakening of existing cast iron pipes, installed in the 1970's caused numerous water main breaks on 22nd Avenue. The expense of repairs, age of the mains, and unreliability, especially in the winter, triggered the need for replacement. Installation of new mains were completed and in working condition as of Friday, November 4, 2016. Engineering and construction cost totaled \$337,000.00.

MAINTENANCE OF OLD GREEN BAY ROAD TRANSFERRED FROM KENOSHA COUNTY TO THE VILLAGE OF SOMERS

Responsibility for all future maintenance of Old Green Bay Road (County M) from 4th Place to County Line Road (KR) has been transferred from the County of Kenosha to the Village of Somers. This action was approved by the Village Board on October 11, 2016. Additionally, the Village and County agree to share equally in any expenses or any repair or reconstruction of the bridge located on Old Green Bay Road spanning the Pike River.

Somers Public Works Department will be responsible for the upcoming 2016-17 snow plow season. Residents and property owners should contact Mr. Jerry Smith, Public Works Supervisor at 262-859-2822 with questions or concerns regarding this change.



SOMERS UNITED HOSPITAL WALK-IN CARE CLINIC NOW OPEN

WHERE:

Highway 31 and Highway S East of Sam's Club and Wal-Mart

HOURS:

Monday-Friday 6:30 AM—6:30 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM—4:30 PM

Sunday: Closed

TELEPHONE:

(262) 551-4600

TREATMENT FOR MINOR PROBLEMS:

Allergies, cough/cold, ear infections, fever, minor burns, sprains/strains, sore throat, minor lacerations, skin complaints and rashes

EMERGENCY:

GO DIRECTLY TO HOSPITAL OR CALL 911

FREE
SMOKE ALARM &
BATTERY



INSTALLED BY-
SOMERS
FIRE & RESCUE

Somers Fire & Rescue Department has a limited number of smoke alarms, including a ten year lithium battery, that are available to families in need who do not have a working smoke alarm.

Often times senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those with special needs do not have many people around that can help them with smoke alarms. If you, or if you know of someone in your neighborhood who needs help, one of our Somers Fire & Rescue representatives will personally deliver the alarm and battery and install it without charge.

Your safety is our priority.

TO REQUEST AN ALARM, PLEASE CONTACT

LT. JOE SCRUGGS

SOMERS FIRE INSPECTOR

(262)620-3285

PUBLIC WORKS: FIXING SOMERS ROADS NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

Village Trustees will adopt, as part of the 2017 budget, a new 10-year plan to keep pace with Somers road repairs. This is the first time in Somers history that a specific road maintenance plan will be implemented. Other than minor repairs and patching, Somers has not made major road improvements in seven years. Many of Somers roads have deteriorated conditions. Somers uses the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads rating system to evaluate our roads and streets. In addition, Trustees have personally conducted inspections. The lowest rated roads and streets will be improved first.

2016 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

STREET/ROAD	WORK	LINEAR FEET	COST
27 th Street	Pulverize & Pave	2,414	\$244,735.
4 th Street	Pulverize & Pave	2,628	115,565.
47 th Avenue	Pulverize & Pave	1,308	75,073.
95 th Avenue	Surface Overlay	486	\$24,650.
38 th Avenue	Surface Overlay	<u>573</u>	<u>\$19,950.</u>
TOTAL		7,409	\$479,973.

2017 BUDGETED ROAD IMPROVEMENTS: \$500,000.

STREET/ROAD	WORK
28 th Street	Joint Project with City of Kenosha from 30 th Avenue West to 39 th Avenue
11 th Street	From Highway H East to its end at 87 th Avenue
11 th Place	From 63 rd Avenue to 65 th Avenue
87 th Place	From 11 th Street to 87 th Avenue to the end including cul-de-sac
17 th Street	From 47 th Avenue West to the end including cul-de-sac

PUBLIC WORKS: FIXING SOMERS LIFT STATIONS NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE



Somers has eight (8) lift stations, similar to the one shown in the photo, located throughout the Village. Although small in size, one cannot underesti-

mate how critical they are in providing sewer services to Somers residents and businesses. Lift stations are used to pump wastewater or sewage from lower to higher elevations to be processed. Failed systems can result in substantial problems for homeowners, primarily flooding and sewer backup in basements.

The 2016 Carthage College lift station replacement project, expected to be completed by December, had an engineering and construction cost of \$2.1 million.

As part of the new CIP, the Trustees will adopt a new 10-year lift station replacement plan that will schedule total replacement of the Seawall, 11th Place, and 7th Street lift stations. All three stations were installed in the 1960's and are nearing the end of their life expectancy.

The replacement plan addresses the necessary upgrades required to provide problem-free sewer service to our utility customers.

HISTORIC AGREEMENT PROPELS DEVELOPMENT MOMENTUM BOUNDARY WARS END BETWEEN SOMERS, KENOSHA, AND PARIS NO MORE BATTLES CONCERNING WHO GETS WATER AND HOW THEY GET WATER



Left to Right: Mark Molinaro, Chairman-Town of Somers; Todd Battle, President-KABA; Karl Ostby, Trustee-Village of Somers; Ed St. Peter, General Manager-Kenosha Water Utility; Ronald Kammerzelt, Supervisor-Town of Paris; George Stoner, President-Village of Somers; Virgil Gentz, Chairman-Town of Paris; Jim Krueser, County Executive-Kenosha County; John Antaramian, Mayor-City of Kenosha; Ken Monson, Supervisor-Town of Paris; Samantha Kerkman-Wisconsin State Representative

At a meeting held on October 11, 2016, parties from the Village of Somers, Town of Paris, City of Kenosha, and Kenosha Water Utility agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that will define permanent boundaries that follow a 50-year plan in addition to making water and sewer services available along the I-94 growth corridor. This agreement ends boundary, water, and sewer battles. All parties will take steps to dismiss pending litigation which could have carried on for quite some time without this agreement.

SOMERS NEW DEPUTY SHERIFF

Effective November 1, 2016, exclusive law enforcement will be provided within the boundary limits of the Village of Somers during second shift, 2:00 PM to 10 PM. Responsibilities of the new Deputy include calls for service such as traffic violations, theft, disorderly conduct, assault, Village and County ordinance violations, and court appearances. Residents can expect to see our new Deputy in a marked Village squad car.

Wisconsin Statutes require that each village in Wisconsin with a population of 5,000 or more is required to provide police protection services within their corporate limits. Compliance of the Statute is required as a result of the electorate voting yes to incorporate a portion of the Town of Somers to a Village on April 7, 2015.

Somers has contracted with the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department to provide this new law enforcement on a fee-based agreement. Revenue from citations issued by the new Village Deputy will be credited to the Village general revenue account.

THE KENOSHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ALL RESIDENTS WITH COMPREHENSIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT 24/7.

ALL SOMERS RESIDENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MEDICAL NEEDS.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Somers Fire & Rescue and Somers Explorers held public safety events during Fire Prevention Week at Somers Elementary School, at Buy Bees Day Care, and at Festival Foods.



Children experience faux smoke in the "smoke house" while firefighters and teachers tell them to "stay low".



Children love to sit in the fire truck and are wide-eyed as they see all the shiny buttons and dashboard.



Pre-kindergarten kids give Sparky a big hug and thank you before going back to their classrooms.

WHAT IS SOMERS EXPLORER POST #463?

The Somers Explorer Post #463 program is a chance for youth aged 14 to 21 years old to explore what it would be like to have a career in fire and emergency services. The Explorer member gains confidence, learns to use various tools, develop mechanical skills and readiness, and acquires a greater awareness of fire safety. The Somers Fire and Rescue Department, in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America, sponsors our Somers program. The Somers career fire and rescue staff, who serve as advisors, volunteer their time to this important program.



Reminder...

If you live near a fire hydrant, please make sure it is visible to our Somers firefighters.

HOW TO AVOID COSTLY SURPRISES ON YOUR WATER BILL

Recently, Somers received a frantic telephone call from a Somers business water utility customer stating their water bill went from \$600 to \$5,000 in one quarter. Immediately the Village Administrator and Public Works Foreman investigated and found the culprit was a running toilet. A running toilet can process up to 200 gallons of water per day.

Chronic leaking faucets and toilets, water softeners stuck in a cycle, and irrigation systems with sticky valves or broken heads are the most common causes of unusual high water usage.

Avoid costly surprises on your Somers water bill by performing periodic "leak checks". If you experience an unusually high water bill, contact Mr. Jerry Smith, Public Works Supervisor at 262-859-2822.

SOMERS GOES PAPERLESS TURNS TO iPad TO CONDUCT VILLAGE BOARD BUSINESS

Somers has joined other communities in utilizing the latest technological communications tool—the Apple iPad.

Eight Apple iPads were purchased at a cost of \$3,832.00 in order to reduce paper usage and staff time to make paper copies of Board packets. Especially during new development activity, Board packets can contain 25 to 50 pages that must be distributed to the eight member Village Board, Village Administrator, Accounting Manager, Public Works Supervisor, Village Attorney, and Clerk-Treasurer per meeting. Instead, they now receive this information electronically and have the ability to review and study Village business prior to meetings. This cost saving modernization upgrade improves efficiency at our local government level.

The Village and Town of Somers *"Connecting With Your Community"* newsletter is published by the Village/Town of Somers for public education and informational purposes. This newsletter is distributed to the residents via the U.S. Postal Service.

William Morris, Village/Town Administrator, Managing Editor

Jacqueline Klapproth Nelson, News and Creative Editor

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FIRST PARK 94 NEWS: BUILDING ONE LEASED BUILDING TWO UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Somers industrial park, First Park 94, located on Highways S and H, held a groundbreaking ceremony for their second building on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. The new building will total approximately 600,000 square feet with expandability.

The first building, a 601,439 square foot building that includes 185' of truck courts, general trailer parking, extensive dock-high loading, sky lighting, and an ESFT sprinkler system, has been leased by Ariens Company, an outdoor power equipment manufacturer based in Brillonn, Wisconsin.



ROBERT C. KUPFER, SOMERS MUNICIPAL JUDGE HOLDS COURT IN SOMERS VILLAGE/TOWN HALL

Robert C. Kupfer was re-elected to a four-year term as Somers Municipal Judge on April 7, 2016. Kupfer, a Somers resident, was admitted to the State of Wisconsin and Kenosha County Bar Association in 1982 and has served as Somers Municipal Judge since 2007.

The mission of the Somers Municipal Court is to correctly and fairly resolve traffic and other municipal ordinance cases in accordance with applicable law.

Somers Court sessions are scheduled twice monthly: the first (1st) and third (3rd) Thursday of each month starting at 1:30 P.M.



FRANCINE DIBBLE NEW SOMERS MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK

Effective November 21, 2016, Francine Dibble will serve as Somers new Municipal Court Clerk. Dibble, who will have her office at the Village/Town Hall, will be responsible for the scheduling of all Court appearances, the collection of fines, and maintaining the office records of the Court. Dibble brings to Somers her experience working in private legal offices as well as various areas in Kenosha County Circuit Court.