

City of Somersworth
City Council Meeting Agenda
City Council Chambers
Monday, February 5, 2024
7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call of Members
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Indigenous People – Our Native Ancestral Americans
 - This meeting takes place on N'Dakinna (n-DA-ki-na), which is the unceded traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki (a-BEN-a-ki), Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land, waterways, living beings and the Aln8bak (Al-nuh-bak), the people who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations.
4. Public Hearing
5. Comments by Visitors
6. Consent Calendar
 - A. Approve Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on January 24, 2024
 - B. Letter of Resignation from Member of the Library Board of Trustees Becky Patten
7. Comments by City Councilors
8. Communications
9. Presentations of Petitions and Disposal Thereof by Reference or Otherwise
10. Mayor's Report
11. Report of Standing Committees
12. Report of Special Committees, City Officers and City Manager
13. Nominations, Appointments and Election
 - Nominations Requiring a Council Vote:
 - A. Stephen Dow as an Alternate Member to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire February 2027
 - B. James Sweatt as the Ward 4 Ward Clerk with a term to expire December 2025
14. Lay on the Table

15. Unfinished Business

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 30-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Convey a Distribution Utility Easement to Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), Doing Business as Eversource

16. New Business

ORDINANCES

- A. **Ordinance 8-24** – Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, Section 34.6, Solar Exemption, To Re-Adopt the Provisions of RSA 72:62 and Limit the Solar Exemption to a Maximum Amount of \$25,000

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 31-24** – To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Properties Located on Wexford Lane and Blackwater Road Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien
- B. **Resolution 32-24** – To Notify the City Tax Collector that the City Council Shall Not Accept a Tax Deed on Certain Properties Subject to an Unredeemed Tax Lien
- C. **Resolution 33-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to use Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and Contract with ENE Systems of New Hampshire, Inc. of Bow New Hampshire to Replace the Air Conditioning System at the Somersworth Police Station
- D. **Resolution 34-24** – To Authorize the City Manager to Contract with GMI Asphalt, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire for Fiscal Year 2024 Road Resurfacing Improvements and to Repair and Reconstruct the Sidewalk on the East Side of Maple Street
- E. **Resolution 35-24** – To Accept Whippoorwill Way and Sandlot Lane as Public Ways

17. Comments by Visitors

18. Closing Comments by Council Members

19. Future Agenda Items

20. Nonpublic Session (as necessary, pending roll call vote by Council)

21. Adjournment

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Mayor Matthew Gerding
One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878

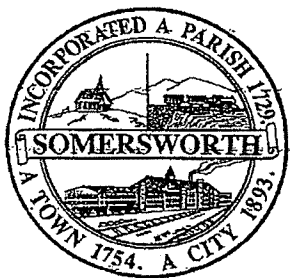
Resignation from Library Board of Trustees

Dear Mayor Gerding,

I am writing to inform you that I am resigning from my position on the Somersworth Library Board of Trustees at the end of my term, which expires 03/2024.

I have enjoyed my time serving on the board, however I feel that with the limited responsibilities of the Library Board of Trustees, my time may be better spent exploring other ways to volunteer within the city.

Regards,
Becky Patten



City of Somersworth
Boards, Commissions & Committee Application

Instructions: Please complete all information.

Name: STEPHEN J. DOW

Telephone: 603-502-5613 Email: therealstevewedow@gmail.com

Residence Address: 2 SANDLOT LANE

Mailing Address (if different): -

Resident of Somersworth for < 1 Years Ward 1

Registered Voter: Yes _____ No ✓ (SOON TO BE!)

Education Level:
BS DEGREE, UMASS, AMHERST (FOCUS ON GEOLOGY)

Please list any organizations, groups, or other committees you are involved in:
NONE INVOLVED W/ CITY/TOWN BUSINESS

I am interested in serving on the following Board, Commission or Committee (s):

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

My Background or Interests are: HIKING/BACKPACKING, KAYAKING, PHOTOGRAPHY, CONSERVATION.

I HAVE PROFESSIONALLY BEEN A PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER, APPLICATIONS ENGINEER, PRODUCT MANAGER, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, DIRECTOR OF APAC SALES, AND AM CURRENTLY A BUSINESS ANALYST/MARKETING CONSULTANT (MY BUSINESS).

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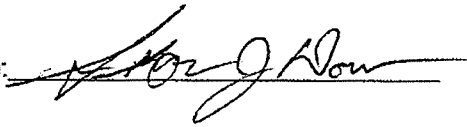


I have served on the following Committee (s) in the past: NONE. HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN ON SELF-MANAGED CONDOMINIUM BOARDS AS PRESIDENT SEVERAL TIMES.

Would you be able to commit to attending all meetings? Yes No

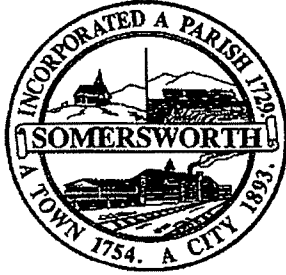
By submitting this Application you understand that:

1. This application is for consideration and does not mean you will necessarily be appointed to this Board/Commission; and
2. The Mayor will review your application, may contact you, check your references, and determine any potential conflict of interests; and
3. This application will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.
4. Application will be kept on file for one (1) year from date of receipt.

Signature: 

Date: DECEMBER 14, 2023

**Please submit application to:
City Clerk's Office
City Hall, One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878**



City of Somersworth
Boards, Commissions & Committee Application

Instructions: Please complete all information.

Name: James Sweatt

Telephone: 603-692-4619 Email: James.Sweatt@gmail.com

Residence Address: 31 Morning St Somersworth NH 03878

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Resident of Somersworth for 17 Years Ward 4

Registered Voter: Yes No

Education Level: 4 Year Degree

Please list any organizations, groups, or other committees you are involved in:

I am interested in serving on the following Board, Commission or Committee (s):
Ward Clerk

My Background or Interests are: Computers

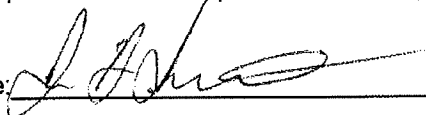
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I have served on the following Committee (s) in the past: Ward Clerk

Would you be able to commit to attending all meetings? Yes No

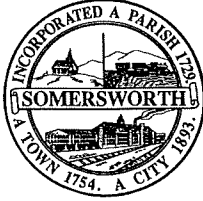
By submitting this Application you understand that:

1. This application is for consideration and does not mean you will necessarily be appointed to this Board/Commission; and
2. The Mayor will review your application, may contact you, check your references, and determine any potential conflict of interests; and
3. This application will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.
4. Application will be kept on file for one (1) year from date of receipt.

Signature: 

Date: Jan 4, 2024

**Please submit application to:
City Clerk's Office
City Hall, One Government Way
Somersworth, NH 03878**



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **30-24**

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONVEY A DISTRIBUTION UTILITY EASEMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (PSNH), DOING BUSINESS AS EVERSOURCE

January 24, 2024

WHEREAS, the Somersworth City Council approved an easement with Northern Utilities, Inc., doing business as Unitil, on September 7, 2021 for a natural gas transmission line; and

WHEREAS, Unitil needs distribution conduit from PSNH doing business as Eversource to support the monitoring and tracking and power needs of the new natural gas transmission line substation on City property to the former “Turcotte Pit” off Maple Street; and

WHEREAS, Eversource requires an easement from the City off Maple Street in what is commonly referred to as the “Turcotte Pit” for the right to lay, install, maintain, replace, and remove cables, wires, and related above/underground fixtures and appurtenances and lines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to convey a distribution utility easement to PSNH doing business as Eversource on City owned property commonly known as the Turcotte Pit off Maple Street, and to take any additional actions required to convey this easement determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by:</i> Mayor Matt Gerding	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney
<i>Councilors:</i> Denis Messier Kenneth S. Vincent Martin Pepin	

City of Somersworth – Resolution 30-24

History

First Read Date:	1/30/2024	Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

1/30/2024

Clerk LaPanne performed a first reading of Resolution 30-24.

Resolution 30-24 will remain in first reading until the call of the Chair.

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On Resolution 30-24		PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Ordinance

Ordinance No: **8-24**

**AMEND CHAPTER 34, EXEMPTIONS AND CREDITS,
SECTION 34.6, SOLAR EXEMPTION, TO RE-ADOPT THE
PROVISIONS OF RSA 72:62 AND LIMIT THE SOLAR
EXEMPTION TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$25,000**

February 5, 2024

THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH ORDAINS THAT the Ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 34, Exemptions and Credits, by deleting Section 34.6, Solar Exemption, in its entirety, and replace it with the following:

Section 34.6 Solar Exemption

The City re-adopts the provisions of RSA 72:62, an exemption from the assessed value for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with a solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61. Such Solar property tax exemption shall be in an amount of \$25,000 or equal to the added assessed value of the qualifying solar energy system equipment as defined in RSA 72:61, whichever is less. This exemption shall be effective for the tax year that begins on April 1, 2024.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin

Approved:

City Attorney



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **31-24**

TO NOTIFY THE CITY TAX COLLECTOR THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL NOT ACCEPT A TAX DEED ON PROPERTIES LOCATED ON WEXFORD LANE AND BLACKWATER ROAD SUBJECT TO AN UNREDEEMED TAX LIEN

February 5, 2024

WHEREAS RSA 80:76 directs the Tax Collector, after 2 years, to execute to the City a deed of the land subject to the real estate tax lien and not redeemed, and

WHEREAS the Governing Body of a municipality may refuse to accept a tax deed on behalf of the municipality because in its judgment, acceptance and ownership of the real estate would subject the municipality to undesirable obligations or liability risks, or for any reason that would be contrary to the public interest,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Tax Collector be notified that for those reasons the City shall refuse to accept the tax deeds on property located at the following locations:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax Map/Lot</u>
5 Wexford Lane	35-12A
7 Wexford Lane	35-12B

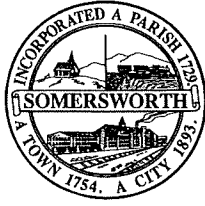
Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Kenneth Vincent

Approved:

City Attorney



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **32-24**

TO NOTIFY THE CITY TAX COLLECTOR THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL NOT ACCEPT A TAX DEED ON CERTAIN PROPERTIES SUBJECT TO AN UNREDEEMED TAX LIEN

February 5, 2024

WHEREAS RSA 80:76 directs the Tax Collector, after 2 years, to execute to the City a deed of the land subject to the real estate tax lien and not redeemed, and

WHEREAS the Governing Body of a municipality may refuse to accept a tax deed on behalf of the municipality because in its judgment, acceptance and ownership of the real estate would subject the municipality to undesirable obligations or liability risks, or for any reason that would be contrary to the public interest,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Tax Collector be notified that for those reasons the City shall refuse to accept the tax deeds on property located at the following locations:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tax Map/Lot</u>
30 Blackwater Road	35-14
79 Crystal Springs Way	82-43M
113 Sherwood Glen	87-113M
325 Sherwood Glen	87-325M
409 Sherwood Glen	87-409M
510 Sherwood Glen	87-510M
691 Sherwood Glen	87-691M
4 Ringer Drive	88-2M
5 Ringer Drive	88-10M

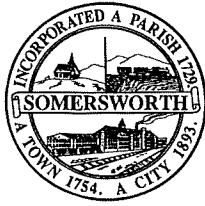
Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Kenneth Vincent

Approved:

City Attorney



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: 33-24

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO USE FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AND CONTRACT WITH ENE SYSTEMS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC. OF BOW NEW HAMPSHIRE TO REPLACE THE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM AT THE SOMERSWORTH POLICE STATION

February 5, 2024

WHEREAS, the air conditioning system at the Somersworth Police Station has failed and no longer functions properly; and

WHEREAS, City Staff requested quotes from qualified contractors to replace the air conditioning system at the Somersworth Police Station; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed these quotes with City Staff and determined it is in the best interest of the City to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funds to start this project as soon as possible and recommends awarding a contract to ENE Systems of New Hampshire, Inc. of Bow, New Hampshire for an amount of \$55,240 (Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty dollars); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee also recommends adding an amount of \$4,760 (Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty dollars) to this project for contingencies and authorize the City Manager to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand dollars) if needed and determined to be in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager may use funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and contract with ENE Systems of New Hampshire, Inc. of Bow, New Hampshire to replace the air conditioning system at the Somersworth Police Station for an amount of \$55,240 (Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty dollars); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount of \$4,760 (Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty dollars) is included with this project for contingencies and the City Manager is authorized to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand dollars) if needed and determined to be in the best interest of the City.

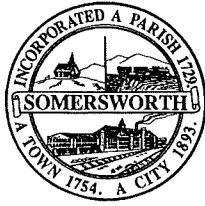
Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

David A. Witham
Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Kenneth Vincent

Approved:

City Attorney



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **34-24**

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH GMI ASPHALT, INC. OF BELMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 ROAD RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS AND TO REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCT THE SIDEWALK ON THE EAST SIDE OF MAPLE STREET

February 5, 2024

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 18-24 on October 23, 2023, authorizing the City Manager to prepare and request bids from qualified contractors for road improvements to the following City streets:

West High Street (High Street to Cemetery Road) mill/overlay
Pleasant Street (High Street to Green Street) mill/overlay
Silver Street (Franklin Street to Pleasant Street) mill/overlay
Fremont Street (Silver Street to Garden Road) mill/overlay
Parkview Terrace (Maple Street to end of pavement) shim/overlay
Trench patching due to water breaks; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 18-24 authorized including the repair and reconstruction of the sidewalk on the east side of Maple Street from the Maplewood School to Cemetery Road; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Environment Committee reviewed the results of the bids received with City staff and recommends contracting with GMI Asphalt, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee reviewed the results of the bids received with City staff and recommends contracting with GMI Asphalt, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire for an amount of \$582,455 (Five Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Five dollars); and

WHEREAS, The Finance Committee recommends including a contingency in the amount of \$42,545 (Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five dollars) for the project, and allow the City Manager to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$625,000 (Six Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand dollars) if needed, and it is determined to be in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to contract with GMI Asphalt, Inc. of Belmont, New Hampshire to make road improvements to the aforementioned City streets and sidewalk improvements as described on Maple Street for a cost of \$582,455 (Five Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Five dollars); and

BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT an amount of \$42,545 (Forty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Five dollars) is included with the project total for contingencies and the City Manager is authorized to increase the contract to an amount not to exceed \$625,000 (Six Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand dollars) if needed, and it is determined to be in the best interest of the City.

Authorization	
<i>Sponsored by Councilors:</i> David A. Witham Denis Messier Martin Pepin	<i>Approved:</i> City Attorney

City of Somersworth – Resolution 34-24

History			
First Read Date:		Tabled:	
Public Hearing:		Removed From Table:	
Second Read:			

Discussion

Voting Record		YES	NO
Ward 1 Councilor	Pepin		
Ward 2 Councilor	Vincent		
Ward 3 Councilor	Gibson		
Ward 4 Councilor	Paradis-Catanzaro		
Ward 5 Councilor	Michaud		
At Large Councilor	Witham		
At Large Councilor	Messier		
At Large Councilor	Cameron		
At Large Councilor	Goodwin		
TOTAL VOTES:			
On	Resolution 34-24	PASSED	FAILED



City of Somersworth – Resolution

Resolution No: **35-24**

TO ACCEPT WHIPPOORWILL WAY AND SANDLOT LANE AS PUBLIC WAYS

February 5, 2024

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Planning Board approved a certain subdivision known as Conservation Subdivision Plan for Greenview Subdivision, 138 Rocky Hill Road, Somersworth New Hampshire, Tax Map 54 Lot 1, revised on December 6, 2017, Final Plans signed May 14, 2018 prepared by TRITECH Engineering Corporation, recorded as Plan #115-092 through 115-094 at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds and the roadway was to be accepted by the City of Somersworth; and

WHEREAS, the City Council named Whippoorwill Way and Sandlot Lane as streets by Resolution No. 38-18 on June 4, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the roads known as Whippoorwill Way and Sandlot Lane have been constructed to the satisfaction of the City; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions apply: A 2-year maintenance Surety Bond in the amount of \$125,000 (One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand dollars) is provided acceptable to the City, a deed to the road as well as all needed public utility easements are provided to the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to accept and record deeds to Whippoorwill Way and Sandlot Lane and said ways are hereby accepted as public right of ways subject to the aforementioned conditions.

Authorization

Sponsored by Councilors:

Denis Messier
Martin Pepin
Kenneth Vincent

Approved:

City Attorney