

## ORDINANCE A-704

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 2-4-5 AND 5-2-1, CODE OF ORDINANCES, SOMERSET, WISCONSIN

THE VILLAGE BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF SOMERSET, WISCONSIN, DOES  
ORDAIN AND AMEND AS FOLLOWS:

THAT SECTION 2-4-5. of the Village Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

~~(a) Fire/Rescue Department Officers.~~

- ~~(1) Appointment. The Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief shall be appointed by the Fire/Rescue Commission, following a survey of Fire/Rescue Department members, a review of training records, experience, and meeting other qualifications set forth by the Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission. The Fire Chief and Assistant Chief appointment will be for a period of two (2) years, subject to suspension or removal pursuant to law.~~
- ~~(2) Appointment. The Captain(s) and all other officers will be appointed by the Fire/Rescue Department and confirmed by the Fire/Rescue Commission following a survey of the Fire/Rescue Department members, a review of training records, experience, and meeting other qualifications set forth by the Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission. The Captain(s) and other officers shall hold office during satisfactory performance, subject to suspension or removal pursuant to law.~~

~~(a)(b)~~ Appointment of Commissioners.

- (1) *Residency; Quorum.* The Board of Fire/Rescue Commissioners shall consist of six (6) citizens who are residents of the Village or Town of Somerset, four (4) of whom shall constitute a quorum with a tie vote being a no vote.
- (2) *Composition.* The Joint Fire/Rescue Commission members shall be:
  - a. *Village.*
    1. One (1) Village of Somerset Board Member.
    2. Two (2) Village of Somerset chosen at large, with terms starting alternate years.
  - b. *Township.*
    1. One (1) Town of Somerset Board Member.
    2. Two (2) Town of Somerset chosen at large, with terms starting alternate years.
- (3) *Confirmation.* All Fire/Rescue Commission member's appointment by each board will be approved by the board they are representing.
- (4) *Terms.* The Boards of the Village and Town of Somerset shall appoint members annually at their first meeting in May, with approval of a full board. Terms of appointments are two (2) years unless:
  - a. Resignation of member either from:
    1. Fire/Rescue Commission
    2. Board member
  - b. Suspension or removal by Fire/Rescue Commission.
  - c. Suspension or removal from office by Board.

d. Term of board membership is completed.

(5) *Governance.* The Commission shall annually elect a chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary at its first meeting following the May meetings of the Village and Town Boards.

(b)(e) *Scope and Mission of Authority Specified.* The provisions of Sec. 62.13, Wis. Statutes (except for the statutory optional powers) and all acts amendatory thereto so far as the same are applicable, are incorporated herein by reference and shall be effective in the same manner as set forth in full herein. In accordance with Sections 62.13 and 61.65, Wis. Statutes, the Fire/Rescue Commission shall have the following specific powers and authority.

- (1) To review and approve all those selected for employment by the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department.
- (2) To conduct hearings on discharge or disciplinary actions within the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department.
- (3) To review and approve all operations for the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department.
- (4) To establish and maintain the ordinances governing the operation and conduct of members of the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department.
- (5) To conduct hearings and resolve complaints of conflicts filed against or from within the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department in the performance of their assigned duties.
- (6) To review all budgets and audits of the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department and make recommendations to the Village and Town Boards of Somerset for approval or disapproval.
- (7) To review and make recommendations to the Boards on approval or disapproval of equipment needs to perform the duties of the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department.
- (8) To review and make recommendations on the contract between the Village and Town of Somerset for the funding and operations of the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department.
- (9) To request a special meeting between the Village and Town Boards of Somerset for conflicts or emergencies that may arise.
- (10) To sue or be sued where necessary to carry out an expressed power of duty.

(c)(d) *Rules of Procedures.* The Fire/Rescue Commission shall, from time to time, make such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to perform and execute the duties and powers herein vested in such Commission.

(d)(e) *Authority of Boards.* The supervision, management of equipment of the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department of the Village and Town of Somerset is herein vested in the Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission. The Boards shall review and approve the salaries of the chiefs chief and members of the Somerset Fire/Rescue Department.

(e)(f) *Record.* The Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission shall keep a record of its proceedings.

(f)(g) *Commission Expenses.* The Village and Town Boards shall approve all funds for compensation and for the expenses of the Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission that are deemed necessary to perform its duties.

### **THAT SECTION 5-2-1. of the Village Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:**

(f) ~~Fire Department Organization.~~ The Somerset Fire Department shall consist of the following officers: one (1) Chief, a First and Second Assistant Chief, a Secretary-Treasurer who shall hold office for such terms as may be determined by the by-laws adopted by the Department upon election by the members of the Department and upon approval by the Village Board together with as many drivers and firefighters who reside within the Village of Somerset as may be appointed by the Chief provided that at no time shall the Department consist of less than twenty (20) active members.

~~(g) *Applications.* Any person desiring to be a member of the Fire Department may file an application with the Secretary Treasurer. Each applicant shall also file a certificate of physical fitness from such physician as the Chief may designate. The name of any applicant approved by the Chief as provided in the bylaws shall be presented to the Village Board for confirmation.~~


~~(h) *Election of Officers; Vacancy.* The selection of the Chief and Assistant Chiefs, and such social officers as may be required shall be selected pursuant to Section 2-4-5.~~

(f) Chief and assistant chief. The fire chief and assistant chief shall be appointed by the Fire/Rescue Commission, following a survey of fire department members, a review of training records, experience, and meeting other qualifications set forth by the Fire/Rescue Commission. The fire chief and assistant chief appointment will be for a period of two years, subject to suspension or removal pursuant to law.

(g) Captains and other personnel. Fire department captains and all other officers will be appointed by the fire department and confirmed by the Fire/Rescue Commission following a survey of the fire department members, a review of training records, experience, and meeting other qualifications set forth by the Fire/Rescue commission. The captains and other officers shall hold office during satisfactory performance, subject to suspension or removal pursuant to law.

Adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025

  
Ryan S. Sicard, Village President

  
Attest: Jessica Lehman, Village Clerk

Date Adopted: 05/20/2025