

**Minutes of  
Feb. 7, 2009  
Meeting**

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**Somerset Government Efficiency  
Committee Meeting**

**Meeting #5  
02/07/2009**

**8:00 to 10:00 AM  
Somerset Town Hall**

**Meeting called by:** Chairman: Supervisor - Richard Meyers

**Type of meeting:** Information Gathering

**Minutes by:** Secretary: Councilman - Randy Wayner

**Attendees:** Supervisor: Richard Meyers Councilman: Randall Wayner.  
(Councilman Engert was unable to attend due to official Sheriff's Dept. duties that required him to be elsewhere this morning).

**Time Allocated:** **Agenda topics**

**45 min.** Review data collected by Committee with the members of the Board of Assessors. We wanted to solicit their input in order to assure a well rounded body of evidence before finalizing our recommendations. Supervisor Meyers & Councilman Wayner

**25 min.** Discuss benefits of getting to 100% full value assessment of properties. Supervisor Meyers & Councilman Wayner

**Observers:** Several Village of Barker residents.

**Resource persons:** Somerset Board of Assessors: Chairman - Randy Hildebrandt, Bob Glidden & John Keogh.  
Village of Barker: Mayor Hon. JoAnn Greenwald, and Village Deputy Mayor Hon. James Harris.

**Special notes:** The Committee wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the Board of Assessors and Village of Barker officials who attended today's meeting. We recognize the overriding priority of communication and cooperation with those governmental entities that may lend themselves to enhanced efficiencies. Furthermore, we appreciate the openness of today's dialog and the shared commitment to exploring initiatives that may achieve positive results for the taxpayers of the Town and Village.

# Somerset Government Efficiency Committee Meeting

**Discussion of  
Topics**

**February 7, 2009**

<b>45 min.</b>	<b>Share data collected from the nine responding Towns regarding their costs of assessment services with, and receive input from, our Town's Board of Assessors.</b>	<b>Who: Supervisor Meyers &amp; Councilman Wayner</b>
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**Status:** We reviewed Supervisor Meyers updated spreadsheet with the Board and explained what the data represented. We then heard from all three Board members as they shared their experience based on opinions. They reported that the advantages of a three person Board included: Consistent coverage from a manpower perspective, a check and balance system gained from three points of view, an effective monitoring of special exemptions resulting in many notifications and resultant tax reductions to qualified taxpayers, an enhanced awareness of assessing the various types of properties within the Town (agricultural, residential, industrial, etc.). The disadvantages of a three member Board included: The presence of conflicting subjective opinions, the increased necessity of additional administrative work to insure a proper level of communication and coordination of services between the three members. Chairman Hildebrandt also shared his feelings regarding the pros and cons of the three accepted methods of assessment services – 1. Three person Boards. 2. Sole elected Assessor. 3. Sole appointed Assessor. His personal preference is the sole appointed Assessor.

**Next Steps:** The committee will decide upon a recommended method of assessment and level of compensation for assessment services. This recommendation will be turned over to the Town Board for their consideration.

<b>Action items:</b>	<b>Person(s) responsible:</b>	<b>Deadline:</b>
Councilman Wayner will prepare a draft recommendation, including supporting rationale. This draft will be reviewed, edited, and finalized by the Committee and distributed to the Town Board.	Councilman Wayner and then, the Committee.	02-21-09

<b>25 min.</b>	<b>Discussion of shared services with the Village of Barker.</b>	<b>Who: Supervisor Meyers &amp; Councilman Wayner</b>
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**Status:** A discussion with Mayor Greenwald and Deputy Mayor Harris regarding what services are currently being provided by both the Town and the Village was held.

**Conclusions:** The following services were identified: Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector, and Public Works (re: equipment, maintenance of buildings and grounds, etc.) An analysis covering the present total cost and benefits vs. post consolidation costs and benefits will be conducted by this Committee.

<b>Action items:</b> Mayor Greenwald and Dep. Mayor Harris will collect the Village's expense data relative to the above services and will report their findings to this Committee.	<b>Person(s) responsible:</b> Mayor Greenwald and Dep. Mayor Harris	<b>Deadline:</b> TBD

<b>5 min.</b>	<b>Assign W-3 (What , Who, When) Activities</b>	<b>Chairman Meyers</b>
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**Assignments:**

Council Wayner will prepare the assessment services recommendation draft and will distribute to Supervisor Meyers and Councilman Engert for their review.

Mayor Greenwald & Dep. Mayor Harris will collect and provide Village expense data as outlined above, to Supervisor Meyers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am

<b>Special notes:</b>	Next meeting: 02-21-2009	8:00 am at the Town Hall.