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Press Release

Somers Intergovernmental Agreement Proposed for October 20th Vote

Promises Made – Promises Kept to Make Community Whole Again

Somers, Wisconsin October 13, 2015

For the past several months, the Somers Village Board of Trustees and the Somers Town Board of Supervisors met independently to create an agreement which fulfills three promises made to citizens during the incorporation process. Those relate to annexation and property taxes.

On October 20, 2015, a joint public hearing on the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement vote will address the following three fundamental issues: (1) annex all the remaining Town property into the Village on December 31, 2015, with the exception of the Town “B” area which annexes into the City of Kenosha in 2035 per a boundary agreement; (2) create one budget with the same property tax rates for property owners in the Village and Town “B” area, and (3) assure all property owners in the Town “B” area and Village continue to receive the same delivery of municipal services, without interruption, and without doubling staff or extra layers of government administration.

William Morris, Administrator of the Village/Town of Somers states, “as a result of incorporation, Somers was divided into both a Town and Village government because Wisconsin Statutes did not permit annexation of the entire community. During public incorporation meetings, citizens strongly expressed their desire to come together again as one community as soon possible. This Agreement accomplishes that, and more. If successfully passed, there will be one 2016 budget that will be split between the Village and Town. The Village portion of the 2016 budget will include 88% of the revenue and expenses and the Town portion will include 12% of the revenue and expenses. This means property tax rates for the Village and Town will be the same.”

People interested in learning more are encouraged to attend the Village and Town of Somers Joint Public Hearing.

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Village/Town Hall, 7511-12th Street, Somers, Wisconsin 53171

Somers, an established community since 1843, is located in Kenosha County, Wisconsin approximately mid-way between Milwaukee and Chicago. With a population of 9,514, Somers is home to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, industrial, commercial, and residential developments, and a sizable presence of agri-businesses. Lake Michigan borders the community on the east and Interstate 94 to the West.

Ends

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