

BOROUGH OF SOMERSET BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Over the years, the Somerset Borough Council has created various Boards, Commissions, and Agencies to provide for wide participation of its citizens in local government. Each has a special area of responsibility as provided for in State Law and / or Local Ordinance.

(a) Somerset Borough Planning Commission

Reviews design of new subdivisions, proposed changes in zoning, and recommends adoption of codes related to building. Meets as necessary, generally 6 times per year. (4-year term)

(b) Zoning Hearing Board

Conducts Public Hearings on appeals from a decision of the Zoning Officer. It may grant a variance when strict compliance would produce unwarranted hardship and it will not be a substantial detriment to adjacent properties. Meets as necessary, generally 2-3 times per year. (3-year term)

(c) Somerset Borough Municipal Authority

Finances major community improvements including water, sewerage, parking lots, municipal building, and maintenance garage. Meets as necessary the third Monday of each month. (5-year term)

(d) Civil Service Commission

Limited, under State Law, to police-related activities. When vacancies occur in the Police Department, the Commission conducts tests and makes recommendations to Borough Council. It also hears appeals from police officers. They meet as necessary, generally one time every two years. (6-year term)

(e) Vacancy Board

If the Council refuse, fail, neglect, or be unable, for any reason whatsoever, to fill any vacancy in elective office within 30 days after the vacancy occurs, the vacancy shall be filled by the Vacancy Board. Such board shall consist of the Borough Council, exclusive of the Mayor, and one registered elector of the Borough who shall be appointed by the Borough Council at the Council's first meeting each calendar year and shall act as chairman of the Vacancy Board. (1-year term – must be a registered elector of the Borough)

(f) Mary S. Biesecker Public Library Board

The Library Board of Directors was created for the purpose of directing the operation of the Mary S. Biesecker Public Library. Generally, meets monthly. (3-year term)

(g) Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals

The Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals shall hear and rule on appeals, requests for variances, and requests for extensions of time. The appeal must be based on a claim that the true intent of the Act or Uniform Construction Code has been incorrectly interpreted, or the Uniform Construction Code does not fully apply or an equivalent form of construction is to be used. Meets as necessary. (3-year term)