

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2010

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Efrem Citarella, Fire Deputies Al Vigliotti and George Wahlers, Fire Inspector Bill Premuroso and Somers Acting Fire Chief John Meeker.

MINUTES

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Citarella seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

There were no submissions this evening.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Acting Fire Chief John Meeker reported on the following:

29 Warren Street - The fire alarm was pulled in one of the buildings. It was not a repeat incident. Hopefully it will not recur. The Assistant Executive Director, Randi Rios-Castro spoke with Mr. Premuroso about avoiding future issues at alarm calls. She would like to meet with Mr. Meeker. He will call her to set up a convenient time and date to meet. In addition, she asked that a clarification be made regarding the minutes of the August 10, 2009 meeting. The minutes indicate that she was invited to attend the meeting, but never showed. Evidently there was a misunderstanding regarding her attendance at the meeting.

6 Manor Lane - The Fire Department responded to another call at this location, but there were no problems.

Somers Woods Development - On the first Monday in February, the Fire Department Officers and Housing Committee will be meeting with the developers of Somers Woods to review the site plan.

25 Route 100 - An open burn next to a structure was responded to by the Fire Department at 25 Route 100.

DEPUTIES REPORT

Deputy Vigliotti reported on the following:

Hydrant in the Business Historic Preservation District - In August, information was forwarded by the Town Engineer regarding grants available for this type of project. Mr. Vigliotti believes it is the Town's responsibility to research the grant since the Bureau is volunteer. He also requested that another memo be sent to the Town Board expressing this sentiment.

25 Route 100 - Mr. Vigliotti asked Mr. Citarella if he ever received a police report for the incident that occurred at 25 Route 100, and he has not.

Deputy Wahlers reported on the following:

Opengate - Mr. Wahlers asked Mr. Premuroso if he thought it was necessary to have Opengate post "no parking" signs, as a way to eliminate the past problem that occurred of people parking in the fire zone. It turned out to be the staff that were parking in these areas and the problems was rectified internally.

Lovell Street - There has been an ongoing problem on Lovell Street in the area of Lakeshore Drive North and South with brush fires. It is believed that the wires throw off sparks on a windy day, which is starting the brush fires. Some of the plastic sheathing on the wires is missing. Mrs. Schirmer will draft a letter to New York State Gas and Electric about this situation, and Mr. Citarella will speak to the owner of the property, Ricky Mancini.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Fire Inspector Premuroso reported on the following:

Imperial Wok - The Fire Department responded to a call at Imperial Wok, while under renovation. There was no key in the knox box. Mr. Premuroso spoke with the owner and he will provide a key. Mr. Premuroso asked Mr. Meeker if the Fire Department could set aside a day to check all the knox boxes in Town to be sure that keys exist.

OLD BUSINESS

Properties with Multi Dwellings - There are a few properties in Town with multi dwellings. There has been past concern over numbering and signage on these properties, as it relates to a fire or medical call. The situation has been resolved at 233 Route 202 and Tri Star Group (Mahopac Avenue).

Mrs. Schirmer sent a letter to the owners of Stuart's Farm, Schwartz's Horse Farm, Tennis Academy (Orchard Hill Road) and Amawalk Farm (Wood Street) in

an effort to resolve these issues.

Mr. Citarella will follow up with Mr. Stuart who was supposed to be putting signs up. The signs that were put up at the Tennis Academy have to be hung higher. A follow up site visit will be made to that site.

Mr. Premuroso received a call from Joel Semil, an employee at the Schwartz's Horse Farm. Mr. Premuroso will get a Google Map of the property from the Planning and Engineering Department, and then he and Mr. Wahlers will conduct a site visit to meet with Mr. Semil. Mr. Meeker indicated that it is important to have a signs at the entrances to each of the driveways, as well as by the front doors of each building.

There has been no response from the owner of the Amawalk Farm on Wood Street. Mrs. Schirmer will send out another letter. Mr. Premuroso also has to visit another property on Mahopac Avenue owned by Tri Star Group to speak to them about numbering the cottages on their lot.

1 Maple Avenue - The Fire Department responded to a call at 1 Maple Avenue. They had some equipment and a minimal amount of gas cans being stored on the property. Mr. Premuroso ordered flammable materials stickers. He and Mr. Wahlers will conduct a site visit and have the owner post them.

Wooded Acres - Roads have been cut and paved, and street signs, approved by the Town Board, have been installed (Mayflower Lane, Ferdinand Drive East and North) in this subdivision, between Pinesbridge Road and South Lane. There was mention of a locked construction gate on the property. Mr. Meeker will research this further.

School Parking - There has been an ongoing concern about the parking situation at the schools during dismissal time. In January, a memo was sent to the Town Board regarding legislation for fire zone enforcement. A memo was received back in February indicating that the draft of the legislation was forwarded to the school district administration for input. Mrs. Schirmer sent a memo in April to the School District Superintendent requesting an update, and there was no response. In July, Mrs. Schirmer was directed to call the School District Superintendent's office. They requested that a copy of the correspondence be sent to them, which was done. In return, the School Superintendent sent a copy of a letter from their attorney, dated April 2, 2009 regarding the issue. They indicated that the Supervisor's office was emailed a copy of the letter on April 15, 2009. The letter stated that research indicated that the Town does not have the independent authority to designate parking restrictions on School District property. Mr. Premuroso called David Clapp, of the State Education Health and Safety Office, and he indicated that this is a Statewide problem. If the schools are concerned with these types of situations, it is really up to them to resolve them with the local authorities. Mr. Wahlers feels

as though this issue has to be dealt with regardless of what the State says. Avoiding a serious situation or tragedy has to be a priority. He is requesting that the School Superintendent meet with the Bureau at either their February or March meeting. Mrs. Schirmer will make the arrangements.

Lupi's Bikeway Plaza - Earlier in the day, Mr. Premuroso conducted a site visit at The Hobby Shop in Lupi's Bikeway Plaza. The basement of the building is only used to test cars, which is done by the staff. The public is not permitted to enter that part of the building.

Somers Central School District Bus Garage - Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Wahlers were supposed to meet with Robert Klick, Assistant Supervisor of Building and Grounds to tour the new bus garage, but the meeting had to be cancelled due to a water emergency in Heritage Hills. The meeting will be rescheduled.

Grand Central Deli - It was previously reported that gas cans and gas powered equipment was being stored in the basement of Grand Central Deli. An inspection was done and they have removed the gas cans, as well as the equipment. A fire door was installed and the walls and ceiling of the basement were sheetrocked. A follow up inspection will be done by Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Wahlers.

12 Louis Drive - The wall between the garage and the basement at 12 Louis Drive was widened so that a small vehicle could access the basement. Jet skis were being repaired in the basement as well. An inspection was done and they were told they had to repair the wall and install a fire door. A follow up inspection will be conducted by Mr. Citarella.

Truss Construction Identification - Mr. Premuroso reviewed the prototype of the signs to identify truss construction and they have been ordered. At some point all buildings in Town with truss construction will be identified, but Mr. Premuroso will begin with Granite Springs Realty and North County on Route 118 and the Lincoln Hall sewer treatment plant.

Fire Alarm Permit Stickers - The company that Mr. Premuroso ordered the Fire Alarm Permit Stickers from wanted the money up front. Since this is not permissible by Town policy, Mr. Premuroso gave the specs for the stickers to Signs Ink, and is waiting for an estimate. Once they are ordered and received, they will be sent to all Fire Alarm Permit holders, with a request that they be displayed near the front door of the building/residence.

Fire Alarms - Mrs. Schirmer will continue to pick up the reports on a monthly basis from the Dispatch Office. A follow up letter will be formulated to be sent to those who received the first letter, but did not comply with the 30 day requirement of securing a Fire Alarm Permit with the Town.

Angle Fly Preserve - Since the roadways being proposed are not in a development, Mr. Meeker is suggesting that another memo be sent to the Town Board with the recommendation that the two roadways be called Reynolds Trail and Tatham Trail.

Town Code – In 2007, Chapters 4, 26, 62, 98 and 116 of the Town Code were reviewed and changes made, and noted. Chapter 158 still has to be reviewed. Since the Town committee created to review the Town Code in its entirety has not met in quite some time, this item is not urgent. The Bureau will review Chapter 158 in the near future, and at that time, will address the following: fire lanes at commercial sites in Town, and deciding which chapter should include the topic of dry hydrants and fire hydrants, to include color coding of all fire hydrants. Once completed, all changes will be forwarded to the Town Board.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Bureau of Fire Prevention

cc: Bureau of Fire Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning & Engineering Department
Somers Fire District

