

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2010

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Efreem Citarella, Fire Deputies Al Vigliotti and George Wahlers.

MINUTES

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mr. Wahlers seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

There were no submissions this evening.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief John Meeker was not present, therefore no report was given.

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 not knowledgeable in writing grants. In January, he requested that another memo be sent to the Town Board expressing this sentiment. There has been no response. Another memo will be sent requesting an update.

Deputy Wahlers reported on the following:

Somers High School - On February 4 a motor caught fire in the duct work of the new girl's locker room at Somers High School. The motor was hidden within the structure and there were no blueprints available to determine exactly where the motor was located. A letter will be sent to Dr. Marien advising her that the blueprints should be obtained and the District custodial and maintenance staff be educated as to the internal systems within the new sections of each building.

3 Moore Drive - A fire occurred at a residence at 3 Moore Drive on January 27. The owner left a torch unmanned, which started a fire in the basement. It was reported that the only window in the basement was covered with plywood. When a permit is issued to rebuild, a site inspection will be done.

Lupi's Bikeway Plaza - There has been an ongoing problem with cars parking in the entranceway. Mr. Citarella will do a site visit.

Heritage 202 Center - The water flow alarm continually goes off and upon arrival, the Fire Department determines that there is no problem. Mr. Citarella will ask Mr. Premuroso do conduct a site visit.

Knox Boxes - Mr. Premuroso will contact Mr. Meeker to give him a list of all the knox boxes in Town so that a determination can be made as to whether or not the keys that are supposed to be in them still are.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

A report was not given due to Fire Inspector Premuroso's absence.

OLD BUSINESS

School Parking - There has been an ongoing concern about the parking situation at the schools during dismissal time. A meeting was held on January 25 between the Bureau of School District representatives Dr. Joanne Marien, Scott Persampieri, Robert Klick and Joe Bernardi to discuss the Bureau's concerns. All agreed to make a concerted effort to rectify this situation. Dr. Marien is willing to contact the school attorney regarding ticketing in fire zones. On February 4, at 4:30 p.m., Mr. Wahlers noticed a parking situation at the Intermediate School. He immediately called Mr. Bernardi who came to the school and now fully understands the Bureau's concerns. He told Mr. Wahlers that the School District had notified the parents and sports representatives about the parking situation.

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. A letter was sent to New York State Gas and Electric about this situation, with a copy to the owner of the property Ricky Mancini. Mr. Citarella did receive a call from NYSEG, that he has to return.

Somers Central School District Bus Garage - Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Wahlers met with Robert Klick, Assistant Supervisor of Building and Grounds for the Somers schools to tour the new bus garage.

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.

Mr. Citarella did receive a phone call and email from the owner of the Amawalk Farm on Wood Street. He will follow up. 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.

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 covered with sheetrock. A follow up inspection was done by Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Tooma and there were still a few issues. Mr. Citarella will follow up.

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 was conducted by Mr. Tooma and everything was in order.

Truss Construction Identification - Signs Ink should be dropping the new truss construction signs off within the next couple of days.

Angle Fly Preserve - At the January Town Board meeting, Reynolds Run and Tatham Trail were approved as the names of the two roadways in Angle Fly Preserve. A letter will be sent to the Somers Fire District, with a copy to the Chief.

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.

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 was 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.

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

Deputy Status - Earlier in the day, Mr. Wahlers was sworn in as 1st Assistant Chief for the Somers Volunteer Fire Department until April 30. The Bureau decided to allow Mr. Wahlers to remain as Deputy until then and his status will be discussed again in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 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