

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 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 Fire Chief John Meeker.

MINUTES

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2010 meeting as submitted. Mr. Wahlers seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

There were no submissions this evening, but the Bureau met with Gus Boniello regarding a hydrant that was placed on Londonderry Lane in Highview Estates. Mr. Boniello would like his bond released from the Town, but was told it could not be, as the Fire Department reported that the hydrant was inoperable. Last fall it was tested and backwashed, and black muck continued to come out of it. Mr. Boniello will consult the owner to see if he is interested in cleaning and maintaining it on a regular basis. If not, he will remove the hydrant and fill the hole with concrete. Mr. Boniello will keep the Bureau updated on the situation.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief John Meeker reported on the following:

Fire Report - There was an electrical fire on Jean Way in Purdys. It occurred in the crawl space between the kitchen and the basement, and was difficult to deal with due to the location.

DEPUTIES REPORT

Deputy Vigliotti reported on the following:

250 Mahopac Avenue - The fire alarm in the building went off four days in a row. Mr. Vigliotti spoke to the owner and suggested they install a knox box. He also issued them a fire alarm permit, as there was not one on file.

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 February and March, memos were sent expressing this sentiment. A response has not been received. Another memo will be sent requesting an update.

Deputy Wahlers reported on the following:

Open Burn - Within the last week, there was an open burn at Park Lane and Route 202. Mr. Premuroso did speak to the owner of the property advising him that open burns are not permitted.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Fire Inspector Premuroso reported on the following:

New Fire Alarm Permits - Mr. Premuroso gave Mr. Vigliotti the newest Fire Alarm Permits, which he will give to the Fire District.

Fireworks Display - Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Meeker will attend the Independence Day Celebration committee meeting later on this evening to discuss the fireworks display.

OLD BUSINESS

Knox Boxes - Mr. Meeker has begun this project. Once completed he will give a report to Mr. Premuroso and letters will be sent to those store owners that don't have a key in the knox boxes.

School District - School District and Fire Department representatives met to discuss some issues. Blueprints are located in each building and have been reviewed with the staff of each of those buildings. The knox box situation is being worked on. New construction areas have been reviewed. Striping has been completed, but the sign issue still has to be dealt with. There has not been an update on the ruling of ticketing illegally parked cars.

Properties with Multi Dwellings - There are a few properties in Town with multi

dwellings. There has been past concern over numbering and signage of the buildings on these properties, as it relates to a fire or medical call.

Mr. Premuroso met with Barry Daniels who oversees the maintenance of all the buildings at the Schwartz's Horse Farm. All eighteen buildings have been identified on a Google Map of the property. Signs still have to be made and installed on the buildings, as well as their four gates. Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Meeker will continue to work on this project. It was also suggested that a Google map be obtained for Stuart's Farm and the procedure be the same for that property.

Mr. Citarella and Mr. Premuroso will make site visits to the Tennis Academy on Orchard Hill Road, as well as the Amawalk Farm on Wood Street tomorrow.

Truss Construction Identification - Signs have been made and received for the Granite Springs Realty building (day care center), the North County building (still under construction) and the sewer plant at Lincoln Hall. All agreed that the signs should be placed to the right of the main entrance. If there is a controversy as to which entrance is actually the main entrance, a second sign can be issued. Mr. Premuroso will give the signs to the owners of the buildings and ask them to hang them.

Dougherty Building - An alarm went off in office #4 of the Dougherty Building on Route 202. Candles were being burned in the office and the smoke detector was covered with a plastic cover. Mr. Premuroso spoke to the owner of the building and told him that the plastic cover has to be removed from the smoke detector.

Lupi's Bikeway Plaza - There has been an ongoing problem with cars parking in the entranceway. Mr. Vigliotti spoke to the store owners about this situation.

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. Citarella will visit the site tomorrow.

25 Route 100 - Mrs. Schirmer secured a copy of the report filed for an incident that occurred at this address in December.

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. Mr. Citarella returned a call from NYSEG, but they have not returned his call. He will call them again.

3 Moore Drive - A fire occurred at 3 Moore Drive in January. The owner's architect is in the process of drawing up plans to rebuild the house. After the fire was extinguished, the Fire Department placed two of their struts under the dining room floor to support it. Their struts have been returned.

Heritage 202 Center - The water flow alarm continually goes off and upon arrival, the Fire Department determines that there is no problem. Mr. Premuroso will speak to Bobby Cox of the Heritage Hills Water District regarding this problem.

Grand Central Deli - A final inspection was done and all situations at this site have been resolved.

Fire Alarm Permit Stickers - Mr. Premuroso has secured prices from a company in California. He will call them again regarding placing an order.

Fire Alarm Permits - It was reported by the Fire Department, that there were thirty residents that had an unregistered fire alarm system, which is against Town Code. All had been sent two letters regarding the situation, and no one responding by submitting a Fire Alarm Permit Application. A third violation letter has now been sent out, certified return receipt, informing all that they will be issued a court appearance ticket if they don't respond within 5 days.

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 this evening.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 10, 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