

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2009

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Chief Efreem Citarella, Deputies Ed Byrnes and Al Vigliotti, Fire Inspector Bill Premuroso and Somers 1st Assistant Fire Chief George Wahlers.

MINUTES

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Citarella seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

North End at Somers - The Bureau met with developer Jim Zappi. A review and discussion took place regarding the site plan received for this project. The Bureau would like four fire hydrants and three fire department connections to be installed on the property. A copy of the site plan was marked up indicating the locations. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board with the site plan attached.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief Bob Totten was not present, therefore a report was not given.

Somers 1st Assistant Fire Chief George Wahlers reported on the following:

Mr. Wahlers asked if there was an update regarding the hydrant at the water treatment plant in Amawalk. The manager would like to meet with the Fire Inspector and the Fire Chief. Since the current Fire Chief's term expires at the end of the month, this issue will be addressed in May. In the meantime, Mrs. Schirmer will send a letter to the manager of the plant informing him the same.

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 will follow up for an update.

In February Mr. Wahlers was in the area of 250 Mahopac Avenue. There were cars parked all around the building and on both sides of the entrance/exit, leaving only one lane for traffic. It was noted that there are no fire lanes marked around the building. Mr. Citarella asked that the Fire Department visit the site with a truck and report back to Mr. Premuroso as to exactly where the fire lanes should

be located. Mr. Citarella told the owner that if cars are parked in unmarked parking areas they will get a violation.

Several memos have been sent to the Police Chief regarding the issuance of tickets to those parking in fire lanes in commercial areas around Town. The lanes are not clearly marked. The Lincoln Dale Plaza was of particular concern. Mr. Premuroso sent a letter to the owner regarding striping and signage of the fire lanes. He will follow up. In the meantime, as these issues are noted in other areas, Mr. Premuroso should be contacted so he can address it with the owner of the property.

In February, a call was responded to at a residence on The Lane in the Business Historic Preservation District. The resident had three appliances (heat, water and a wood burning stove) feeding into one chimney. Mr. Citarella spoke with the owner and told him that he had to hire a licensed professional to rectify the situation and bring it up to code. The owner faxed a statement to Mr. Citarella regarding the installation. A follow up call will be made since the flue installation is unclear. It is understood that the stove cannot be used until Mr. Citarella inspects and approves the installation. The owner was out of Town and recently returned. Mr. Citarella will follow up.

Mr. Citarella reported that the owner of the Tennis Academy on Orchard Hill Road is hiring an engineer to resolve the parking situation. It is imperative that emergency vehicles are able maneuver around the site. Mr. Citarella will be meeting again with the owner on Wednesday, April 15 to discuss this situation. An update will be given in May.

Mr. Wahlers read an article in the Journal News about registering rental properties. The Fire Department needs to know about the rental properties in Town that are registered. Mr. Citarella will have his office supply Mr. Wahlers with a list of those properties.

Another concern is properties in Town where multiple dwellings exist. An example given was Stuart Farm. There are several buildings on the property and they are not numbered. Unless the caller to 911 is very specific about the location within the property where the problem is occurring, it could be a disaster. The buildings should be individually numbered and clearly marked. Mr. Citarella will speak to the Town Assessor about this situation and begin the process by coming up with a list of properties in Town where multiple dwellings exist. This will be discussed again in May.

Mr. Meeker was not present this month, so a report was not given.

DEPUTIES REPORT

Deputy Al Vigliotti reported on the following:

Mr. Vigliotti requested that another memo be sent to the Town Board regarding his ongoing concern for the need for a hydrant in the Business Historic Preservation District. Last month, it was suggested that Mr. Premuroso survey the residents in the BHPD to see if they might be interested in being a part of this project. He certainly can do that, but what will the response be when he is asked how much will it cost and who will be responsible for paying for it.

Mr. Byrnes did not have anything to report this month.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Premuroso reported on the following:

Last month a meeting took place at Pepsi with Cesar Corte, Mr. Totten and Mr. Wahlers. They cannot lower the pressure on the hydrant, but will put a 2 ½" pressure reducing valve on it. It will be marked for sole use by the Fire Department. Once it is working, the Fire Department will drill their members on how to use it. Mr. Premuroso reported that the valve is on order and he also told them that all of their hydrants should be tested.

Mr. Premuroso has received several calls from residents regarding the legality of outdoor portable fire places. According to Section 307.4.2 of the Fire Code of New York State, recreation fires are permitted, but shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material and conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

A list of four licensed day care centers in Town was given to Mr. Wahlers by Mr. Premuroso. It appears as though there are more in Town that are registered, but they haven't informed the Town.

There are several commercial buildings in Town that do not have fire alarm systems. A list of contact numbers for those buildings was given to Mr. Wahlers.

Mr. Premuroso received a memo from the Town Engineer regarding Highview Estates. The builder would like his bond money returned. Before they can do so, the builder has to provide proof that the hydrant is being maintained and is in working order. Mr. Premuroso will speak to the Town Engineer regarding this issue.

There is a concern about identifying commercial buildings with truss construction. Mr. Premuroso will be ordering signs that can be adhered to the outside of the building. This is a code requirement for new construction and must be enforced

by the local authorities.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Alarm Permit Stickers - Mr. Premuroso received samples of Fire Alarm Permit stickers. Once the stickers are ordered and received, they will be sent to all permit holders. Unfortunately a freeze on spending has been put forth by the Town Board. The stickers cannot be purchased until the freeze is rescinded.

Dry Hydrants - Last month the Bureau met with the Town Engineer to discuss concerns with some of the dry hydrants around Town. Contractors are installing them, they are never maintained and as a result, many of them no longer work. Moving forward, the Bureau would like to be the entity responsible for determining whether or not fire hydrants need to be installed, and then the Town needs to be responsible for coming up with a maintenance agreement that the contractor abides by, so that this situation does not continue to occur. The Secretary drafted a letter to be sent to the owners of the dry hydrants that currently exist. The owners need to be responsible for maintenance and testing, and proof that this is being done twice a year (once in August and February) must be provided to the Bureau. If they are inoperable, the Bureau should be notified. All reviewed the draft of the letter. It will be discussed again in May because Mr. Premuroso needs to see if there are companies that will test the hydrants. Once the letter is finalized, it will be sent to the Town Engineer with a list of those who received it.

A discussion took place about the hydrant in Reis Park. All agreed it should be changed to a dry hydrant. A memo will be sent to the Town Board with a copy to the Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Code – At the July 2007 meeting, Chapter 26 was completed and in August, Chapter 4. In October, Chapters 62, 98 and 116 were reviewed and a few changes noted. Chapter 158 still has to be reviewed and discussed. Fire lane concerns have to be addressed and all street addresses for these locations must be included as well. Additionally, a decision has to be made as to 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. If there are no submissions in May, Chapter 158 will be discussed then.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and the Chief and Deputies went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2009 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