

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2009

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

MINUTES

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Byrnes seconded the motion. All were in favor.

RESIGNATION

Mr. Byrnes resigned as Fire Deputy to the Bureau effective May 11, 2009 due to his recent appointment as Fire Chief for the Somers Volunteer Fire Department. A copy of his resignation will be forwarded to the Somers Fire Board of Commissioners requesting that they recommend someone to replace Mr. Byrnes. A copy will also be sent to the Town Board. Mr. Byrnes handed in his ticket book, badge and vest.

SUBMISSIONS

There were no submissions.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes reported on the following:

On May 19 there will be a public hearing at 9:00 p.m. at the Lincolndale Firehouse on a proposed abolishment of a previously established water hydrant zone in Shenorock. The information is posted on the Town website.

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. Mr. Vigliotti spoke to two property owners in the BHPD to see if they might be interested in being a part of this. One was responsive to the idea, and the other undecided.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Premuroso reported on the following:

In March 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. Mr. Premuroso called two sprinkler companies to see if the test hydrants and they do not. An alternative plan will have to be discussed next month. Once the letter is finalized, it will be sent to the Town Engineer with a list of those who received it.

An email was received by Mr. Gagne regarding bond money being returned for the dry hydrant in Highview. It was suggested that Mr. Gagne contact the Fire Department to see if they would test the hydrant. It will be the responsibility of the property owner to maintain it yearly if it is in working order and proof of such must be provided to the Bureau. A memo will be sent to Mr. Gagne.

On Wednesday, May 20, Mr. Premuroso will be at IBM to conduct a fire drill between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. He would like one of the Somers Fire Chiefs to be present as well.

The Somers Middle School will be sponsoring a Revolutionary War Encampment for their students on Thursday, May 21. A Bonfire Permit will have to be issued.

Last month, information was given to Mr. Wahlers about day care centers in Town. Data for five additional centers was given to newly appointed 2nd Assistant Chief Michael Cyrulik. All of the information on day care centers has been added to the computer system.

Mr. Premuroso gave Mr. Byrnes information on the group home on Route 118.

There has been a concern about properties in Town where multiple dwellings exist. Two examples are Stuart Farm and apartments across from the Granite Springs Post Office. The 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. Premuroso will be visiting the Granite Springs site and will speak to the Stuarts about their situation.

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. The signs will indicate the type of construction and the number, as well as where it is located.

Recently there was a fire at 12 Louis Drive. Mr. Premuroso and/or Mr. Citarella and Mr. Tooma will investigate. A report of the situation was issued to the Bureau.

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.

Amawalk Water Treatment Plant - Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Byrnes will make arrangements to meet with the manager to discuss the hydrant situation.

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 requesting an update. To date there has not been a response.

The Lane - 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 was made since the flue installation is unclear. It is understood that the stove cannot be used until Mr. Citarella inspects and approves the installation. An update will be given when the owner returns Mr. Citarella's call.

Tennis Academy - There has been some concern over parking at the Tennis Academy on Orchard Hill Road. Mr. Citarella met with the owner and found the parking area to be very organized and clearly marked. He will visit the site again with Mr. Premuroso, who has been there before, to see if he feels as though the situation has improved.

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. All agreed that Chapter 158 will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting in June.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 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