

## **BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**July 13, 2009**

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Ed Byrnes.

Mr. Citarella welcomed the newly appointed Deputy Chief George Wahlers. Mr. Wahlers was issued a badge, safety vest and ticket book.

#### **MINUTES**

Mr. Citarella made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2009 meeting as submitted. Mr. Vigliotti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

#### **SUBMISSIONS**

There were no submissions this month.

#### **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

**Somers Fire Chief Ed Byrnes reported on the following:**

**Opengate** - At last month's meeting, Mr. Byrnes expressed his ongoing concern with the amount of fire alarms being responded to at Opengate. The residents are pulling the fire alarm box handle on a regular basis. Mr. Byrnes would like them to be on a key system and evidently Opengate doesn't want to issue keys to their employees. Mr. Premuroso accessed a report of how many times the Somers Volunteer Fire Department responded to a fire alarm call at Opengate. Between February 26 and June 11, they responded nine times. Over the past weekend, the alarm went off again. Mr. Byrnes will file a formal complaint with the Bureau and Mrs. Schirmer will send Opengate a letter once the complaint is received. Mr. Wahlers will issue them a court appearance ticket. This problem must be resolved.

**Fire Alarm Notification** - A bulletin was recently received from the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control indicating that section F401.3.2 requires that the fire department be immediately notified upon receipt of a fire alarm signal. Since fire alarm calls have not been received from Lincoln Hall, IBM and Pepsi, Mrs. Schirmer will send them a letter, with a copy of the bulletin to reinforce the requirement. Hopefully they have not been dealing with these situations internally.

## **DEPUTIES REPORT**

### **Deputy George Wahlers reported on the following:**

**Tennis Academy** - While he was 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief for the Somers Volunteer Fire Department, there was 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. Wahlers and Mr. Premuroso to see if they feel as though the situation has improved.

**Water Treatment Plant** - Mr. Wahlers asked if this situation has been resolved. Mr. Byrnes will get to it as soon as he is able.

### **Deputy Al Vigliotti reported on the following:**

**Fire Hydrant in the Business Historic Preservation District** - 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.

## **FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Mr. Premuroso reported on the following:**

Mr. Premuroso obtained aerial photos of the commercial buildings in Town. When the Town Code discussion resumes in August, they will be referenced. Mr. Citarella supplied Mrs. Schirmer with the street addresses for the commercial buildings for the same purpose.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Dry Hydrants** - A discussion has been ongoing about the dry hydrants in Town in terms of their maintenance and testing. The Somers Fire District is willing to take over ownership and maintenance of them after they have been tested. They are also willing to test them. Mr. Byrnes will set up a schedule for the month of August to test all the dry hydrants in question. He will report back to the Bureau regarding the status of each.

**Truss Construction Identification** - Mr. Premuroso will determine how many signs are needed to identify commercial buildings with truss construction. All agreed that they should be placed at the AB corner of the building, 6 feet from the ground.

**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.

**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. She was directed to call the School Superintendent's office for an update.

### **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. The review process for Chapter 158 began last month. Fire lanes are a concern. 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. The discussion will continue in August. Once completed, all changes will be forwarded to the Town Board.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 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  
Somers Fire District