

SOMERS BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION
335 Route 202
Somers, New York 10589

MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2011

Chief Citarella called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Efrem Citarella, Deputy Chiefs Rob Russell and Al Vigliotti, Fire Inspector Bill Premuroso and Somers Fire Chief George Wahlers.

MINUTES

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mr. Citarella seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

Sussmann Mobil Station – Members reviewed the site plan submitted by the Planning Department for the Sussmann Mobil Station located at 291 Route 100. The Bureau would like to know the container capacity of the propane tank on the Route 100 side of the Station and its distance to the roadway, as well as the building. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief George Wahlers reported on the following:

Heritage Hills Fire – There was a small accidental fire in a resident's bathroom in Heritage Hills.

Brush Fire – There was a brush fire at Lovell Street and Lakeshore Drive. NYSE&G was notified and installed an insulator sleeve on the wire.

Somers High School – One of the pull stations at Somers High School was activated during a recent track meet. It turned out to be a student from Brewster High School. The student was suspended, had to apologize and is meeting with Fire Chief Wahlers to get a better understanding as to the seriousness of this incident.

Chase Bank in Towne Centre at Somers – A fire alarm call was responded to and it turned out to be dust in the smoke head.

Commercial Properties Parking Issues – Issues continue to concern Fire Chief Wahlers with regard to parking at various commercial properties in Town. Cars frequently park in designated fire lanes, in entrances and exits, and behind buildings. As always, the detriment would be if ever there were a serious

situation at one of these buildings and the parked cars prevented emergency vehicles from accessing a person or building. This has been brought to the attention of the Police Chief and will be done so again. The commercial properties of concern are: 250 Mahopac Avenue (strip mall with US Auto Parts and a karate school); 265 Route 202 (strip mall with Chase Bank, Taste Deli and a dry cleaner; Heritage 202 Center; Lincolndale Plaza; Lincolndale Post Office; Somers Commons; Somers Town House; and Towne Centre at Somers.

DEPUTY CHIEF REPORTS

Deputy Chief Russell reported on the following:

Old Tomahawk Street – On April 27, Deputies Russell and Vigliotti received a call from the Dispatch Office regarding cars parked along the roadway on Old Tomahawk Street. This continues to be a problem, especially on the weekends. There have been times during the day, where there is plenty of parking in the lots and cars are still parking along the roadway. In some instances, cars were also blocking fire hydrants. Depending on the day and time, an emergency vehicle might be able to squeeze through the cars parked on both sides of the road, but if there were to be a serious situation in that area, Fire Chief Wahlers is concerned that it could be a disaster. Deputy Vigliotti visited the site and talked to realtors at Keller Williams attending a class, as well as the patrons in Somers 202, explaining the seriousness of them parking along the roadway. No one claimed to own any of the cars, but when he left and waited a bit, several people moved some of the cars. The Police have indicated that since there are no signs posted they cannot issue a ticket. Memos have been sent to the Police Chief with regard to this situation on two different occasions. A third memo will be sent. If the Police are not able to resolve this situation, a letter will be sent to the Town Board requesting that “no parking” signs be installed. The Fire Chief will continue to patrol the area and document what he observes.

Deputy Chief Vigliotti reported on the following:

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. Vigliotti delivered required flammable materials stickers to the owner. The problem was with the tenant’s tree service business. Mr. Premuroso and Mr. Vigliotti will do a site visit together to be sure that everything is in order.

Color Coding Hydrants at Heritage Hills – Many of the hydrants at Heritage Hills that are over 150 PSI should be colored coded and they are not. Mr. Premuroso has asked that the Fire Department put this request in the form of a letter and he will follow up.

Somers Middle School – The School District has painted 10 feet of yellow lines on each side of the Siamese fire connection at the Somers Middle School to prevent people from parking in front of it.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Fire Inspector Premuroso reported on the following:

Ticketing on School District Property – The School District and the Town have been working on changing the Town Code so that the Town Police are able to ticket cars illegally parked in the fire lanes on school property 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All site visits have been completed. Mr. Premuroso has given all the paperwork to Mrs. Schirmer. She will follow up with the Town Attorney and then the Town Board. Once approved, the School District will be notified.

Heritage Hills Hydrants – Mr. Premuroso reported that he has received a report for 2009 from Heritage Hills verifying that all of the hydrants in Heritage Hills are working and the valves have been tested. Copies have been issued to the Fire District, Fire Chiefs and Deputy Vigliotti. The 2010 report was not done due to the drought conditions.

OLD BUSINESS

Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC/Spectra Energy - This gas line runs parallel to Route 6 and can be accessed by Windsor Road. All agreed that a site visit would be a good idea. Mr. Premuroso will make arrangements with Spectra Energy, who manages the Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC. to arrange for a site visit in the near future. At present, the roadway has a huge ditch in front of it from a recent rain storm.

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 the Fire Chiefs will continue to work on this project.

There is also a concern about 19 Old Route 100. Mr. Premuroso will conduct a site visit.

A Google map will be obtained for the Amawalk Farm on Wood Street, and the procedures will be the same.

Fire Alarm Permit Stickers – Mrs. Schirmer went through the permit books at the Dispatch Office and sent out the remaining Fire Alarm Permit stickers. A handful of them were returned. She will return to the Dispatch Office on May 11 to update the permit books.

Fire Alarm Permits – Four residents had an unregistered fire alarm system, which is against Town Code. Court appearance tickets were issued by the Police Department and all the paperwork was filed with the Court. Two of those people came forward to secure a permit. The remaining two did not. One was to appear in Town Court on May 2 and the other this evening. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up and give an update at the June meeting.

Hydrant Checks – Mr. Vigliotti inquired as to whether or not he can use a Town vehicle to perform lengthy inspections of the fire hydrants in Town or can be reimbursed for his mileage. Mr. Citarella will follow up with the Town Supervisor.

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.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 13, 2011 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