

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**July 11, 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.

Guests included Mike Festo, Mike Lubic and Joe Mazzella.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Vigliotti made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2011 meeting as submitted. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**SUBMISSIONS**

There were no submissions this month.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Somers Fire Chief George Wahlers reported on the following:

**Condos at Angle Fly Preserve** – Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston called Mr. Wahlers about boarding up the condos at Angle Fly Preserve due to recent vandalism. In his opinion, if the condos are not going to be used, they should be torn down.

**Contacts Update** – Mr. Wahlers asked that an update on contact information for the Bureau members and the Fire Inspector be provided to the 911 Dispatch Office, Commissioners and Fire Chiefs. Mrs. Schirmer will send the information.

**Towne Centre at Somers** – Two situations occurred in the Towne Centre at Somers with Houlihan Lawrence and the Fune Japanese Restaurant. Houlihan Lawrence did not evacuate while a fire alarm was sounding and there was a problem with the smoke alarm in the Fune Japanese Restaurant. Houlihan Lawrence gave their assurance that if this situation were to ever occur again, they would vacate the building. Maintenance for the Towne Centre at Somers got involved with the situation at the Restaurant and Mr. Premuroso will follow up to see that all is working properly.

**New York Sports Club** – The owners want to remove the heat detector from the pool area. Mr. Premuroso has no objections as long as it is agreeable with Somers 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Irwin Schiro. A site visit will be done.

**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 on two different occasions. Unfortunately the parking issues are not resolved. A request has been made to send letters to the owners of: 250 Mahopac Avenue; 267 Tomahawk Street; 152 Route 202; 155 Route 202; 265 Route 202; Heritage 202 Center; Somers Commons and Towne Centre at Somers, requesting their assistance with resolving this situation.

### **DEPUTY CHIEF REPORTS**

Deputy Chief Russell reported on the following:

**Travis Road** – On July 3 there was an open burn. A resident on Travis Road was burning garbage.

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

### **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. Paperwork was submitted to the Town Attorney and Town Board. At the July 7 Town Board meeting, a Public Hearing was set for August 11. Once approved, the School District will be notified.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Parking Concerns on Old Tomahawk Street** – Previous discussions have taken place regarding cars parked along the roadway on Old Tomahawk Street.

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 are also blocking a fire hydrant. 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. The Police have been notified on two different occasions, but have indicated that since there are no signs posted they cannot issue a ticket. The owners of the businesses on Old Tomahawk Street attended the meeting this evening. They indicated that they will make every effort to stop their patrons from blocking the fire hydrant and parking on the roadway. Police Chief Driscoll will be asked to attend the August meeting to discuss this further. The last resort will be to send a letter to the Town Board requesting that “no parking” signs be installed.

**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** – All Fire Alarm Permit stickers have been distributed and the permit books in the 911 Dispatch Office are up to date.

**Fire Alarm Permits** – Four residents had an unregistered fire alarm system, which is against Town Code. Numerous attempts were made to resolve the situation to no avail. Court appearance tickets were issued by the Police Department and all the paperwork was filed with the Town Court. Two secured permits; one no longer has a fire alarm system; and one appeared in Court and received a fine.

**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, August 8, 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