

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
ANNEX
337 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

EFREM CITARELLA
CHIEF



MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 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.

Chief of Police Driscoll was also present.

MEETING WITH CHIEF OF POLICE DRISCOLL

At the request of the Bureau, Chief of Police Driscoll attended the meeting to discuss two concerns, illegal parking on Old Tomahawk Street and at various commercial properties (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) around Town. A meeting was held with the owners of the businesses on Old Tomahawk Street and a letter was sent to the owners of the commercial properties regarding these concerns. This is definitely a police issue and Mr. Driscoll has indicated that signs would make it much easier to enforce. He will meet with Mr. Premuroso to discuss signage needed for Old Tomahawk Street and any commercial properties in question, and will then make a request to the Town Board for signs.

MINUTES

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

SUBMISSIONS

The Green at Somers – Members reviewed a site plan for The Green at Somers located at 57 Route 6. A request will be made to the Planning and Engineering Department for the building floor plans, as well as a site plan that indicates the location of the fire hydrants, fire lanes, sprinkler systems, siamese connections,

etc. The Bureau would also like to suggest that the fire hydrants be color coded.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Fire Chief George Wahlers reported on the following:

Somers Middle School – Over this past weekend, the Fire Department responded to three automatic fire alarms at the Somers Middle School. Mr. Premuroso will follow up.

5 Matthews Lane – An automatic fire alarm call was responded to by the Fire Department last week at 5 Matthews Lane. Upon arrival, the homeowner allowed a Lieutenant to enter his basement to do an investigation, but when asked to investigate the rest of the house he was told he couldn't. In addition they did not have a permit on file for the alarm system. Mr. Vigliotti would like to know whether or not there is a law indicating that a homeowner must let them in. In addition, the homeowner claimed they had a permit. Mrs. Schirmer was unable to confirm that. They were told that they had to either produce the permit or a copy of a cancelled check for that permit as proof. If not, they would have to secure another permit or they would be in violation.

The Mews at Baldwin Place – Chief Wahlers recently did a site visit and had some concerns with the size of the water main tie ins, as well as not being able to access the back of the building with a tower ladder. Mrs. Schirmer will send all the most recent correspondence regarding this project and will also make arrangements with the Planning and Engineering Department for members to view the approved site plans.

DEPUTY CHIEF REPORTS

Deputy Chief Russell reported on the following:

Firehouse Walkthroughs – Mr. Russell will be doing a walkthrough of all the firehouses in Town with one of the Board of Commissioners members.

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.

FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Fire Inspector Premuroso did not have a report this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Ticketing on School District Property – On August 11, there will be a Public Hearing regarding a change to the Town Code that will allow the Town Police to ticket cars illegally parked in the fire lanes on school property 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Once approved, the School District will be notified.

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 some 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. It would also be extremely helpful if the 911 Dispatch Office has layout details about these multi dwelling properties. Mr. Russell is willing to work with Mr. Premuroso on this project. The current properties in question are: Schwartz's Horse Farm, 19 Old Route 100 and Amawalk Farm on Wood Street. There was also mention of a multi-dwelling on Route 118 near the Shenorock entrance.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Color Coding Hydrants – A letter was received from John Markiewicz, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners concerning a potential safety hazard to their personnel and equipment, as most if not all of the hydrant systems in the Town do not have the hydrants color coded in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association Standard 291. Mr. Russell would like to request that this requirement be written into the Town Code. A response letter will be sent indicating that we will keep them informed as to our actions to move forward.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 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