

BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

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THOMAS J. TOOMA, JR.
CHIEF



MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2018

Bureau Chief Tooma called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance: Bureau Chief Tom Tooma, Somers Volunteer Fire Department 1st Assistant Chief Jon Mackey, Chief Fire Inspector William Premuroso, and Deputy Chief Robert Russell.

Deputy Chief Al Vigliotti was absent.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Deputy Chief Russell to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting as submitted. Bureau Chief Tooma seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

There were no submissions this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

AvalonBay Somers – Somers Volunteer Fire Department Chief Paul Jockimo would like some additional striping by Building 6 at AvalonBay Somers. Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso doesn't necessarily think it is necessary, however he asked that 1st Assistant Chief Mackey follow up. Mr. Jockimo would also like markers added to the hydrants. Adam Smith of the Water Department will mark them with the flags he has, but if he runs out of them, he will have to wait until the new year to order more. In the spring the hydrants will be painted.

Somers Diner – Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso met with the new owner of the Somers Diner. Somers Security is working on putting their alarm system back on line.

Paramount at Somers – After numerous attempts since August 21, 2017, Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso has been unable to secure architect plans and a scope of work for interior work that was done at Paramount at Somers (three offices were built and a dining room was turned into a rehab area) to determine whether or not Building Permits and/or electrical inspections are needed. A Notice of Violation was issued with a compliance date of November 27, 2018. Bureau Chief Tooma will call administrator Kerry DeSandre tomorrow. If what is needed is not provided by next week, a Court Appearance Ticket will be issued.

It was reported last month that the administration had been conducting fire drills without notifying the Fire Department and in turn the staff was calling 911. Fire Chief Inspector Premuroso spoke to the administrators regarding this serious situation and they assured him that the procedure has been corrected and 911 will not be called.

There was also an issue with internal parking as staff were parking on both sides of the parking lot entryways preventing emergency vehicles from getting through. Fire Chief Inspector Premuroso addressed this situation and reported that “no parking” signs have been posted.

This evening a discussion ensued about a pile of millings that is blocking access to their dry hydrant. Bureau Chief Tooma will follow up with Principal Engineering Technician Steve Woelfle about this issue.

It was also reported that an existing pavilion was enclosed. Code Enforcement Officer Rob Russell will follow up.

9, 11, 13 and 15 Butlerville Road – A second letter was sent to the owners of 9, 11, 13, and 15 Butlerville Road regarding concerns about the narrow, windy and bumpy condition of a long dirt/stone roadway that accesses their homes, as well as how and/or if emergency apparatus could get up the roadway due to a sharp turn halfway up the drive. The owners of 13 Butlerville Road sent a letter with a scope of work that was recently done. 1st Assistant Chief Mackey will conduct a site inspection and report back.

Portable Generators in Heritage Hills – Building Inspector Tooma had a conversation with one of the Heritage Hills Condo Presidents about allowing portable gasoline generators. Although a Plumbing Permit is not required, an electrical inspection has to be done for the installation of a transfer switch. Guidance will be given in an effort to assist the Condo Boards with regard to stipulations they can share with their residents. Deputy Chief Russell suggested that portable propane generators be used instead. A letter will be sent to all Condo Board Presidents with this recommendation.

Attic Accesses in Heritage Hills – On November 28th, Building Inspector Tooma met with the Council of Condominiums in Heritage Hills regarding attic accesses through garage ceilings in units in Heritage Hills, which are not permitted. They share his concerns and want to work on a plan for resolving the issues.

247 Route 100 – Deputy Chief Russell spoke with the manager of 247 Route 100. In the spring they will install gray x pavers, move the conex boxes and test the 10,000 gallon well to be sure it is functioning. If the well is going to be used for training purposes, Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso reminded everyone that someone has to take responsibility for replacing the water.

Testing of Pressure Reducing Valves in Heritage Hills – Testing of the pressure reducing valves in Heritage Hills is a work in progress and should be completed by the end of the year.

Hydrants at DeCicco & Sons – The hydrant has been installed at the Towne Centre of Somers by DeCicco & Sons. It faces the right direction and has been back filled. Marc Brassard will let Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso know when the main has been flushed.

2 Old Tomahawk Street – There are two buildings on this lot, a restaurant and an office building with an apartment above it. The fire alarm system has been straightened out to reflect that there are two separate buildings on the property.

339 Route 202 – Signs have been posted indicating that there is a fire department connection and pump in one of the buildings that feeds both buildings.

Chili's – Last month the Fire Department responded to a call at Chili's in the middle of the night to find that the keys in the Knox box didn't work and no one answered the phone for the number that was listed. 1st Assistant Chief Mackey reported that the keys and phone numbers have been updated.

Out of Service Rings – Out of service rings were placed on the hydrants at Blackberry Hill Road, Moore Drive, Sunderland Lane/Titus Court and Todd Lane.

Lincoln Hall – Renovations were made to the Cedar and Fallahee cottages in Lincoln Hall. Building Permits and/or electrical inspections may have been required. Building Inspector Tooma sent a letter to their administrator Jack Flavin. Earlier today the contractor provided the scope of work and a copy of the electrical inspection. The information submitted will be reviewed and a determination made as to whether or not a Building Permit is needed.

Once Upon a Child – Last month Paul Green of the Water Department tried to read a water meter in the utility room of Once Upon A Child at 80 Route 6, but he couldn't access the meter as the room was being used for storage. Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso followed up and reported that the area has been cleared and the situation corrected.

Chimney Fires Follow Up – On Sunday, November 18th there were chimney fires at 6 Otha Drive and 127 Route 100 as a result of creosote build-up. Bureau Chief Tooma requested documentation from the owner showing that the chimneys were cleaned and

inspection. Paperwork for both addresses was received and filed.

SOMERS FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF'S REPORT

1st Assistant Chief Jon Mackey reported on the following:

The Fire Department responded to the following calls since the last meeting:

30 Central Way – minor fire in laundry room from lint build up in vent.

311B Heritage Hills – minor fire in oven as a result of too much pam being sprayed on salmon and then being placed under a broiler.

490A Heritage Hills – fireplace flue not opened resulting in smoke build up.

51 Bedell Road – oil burner issue.

30 Lalli Drive – brush being burned.

A discussion ensued about open burns. Guidelines will be prepared and submitted to the Fire Department.

DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Deputy Chief Russell didn't have a report this evening and Deputy Chief Vigliotti was not present.

CHIEF FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso reported the following:

The fire alarm and sprinkler systems at the Crossroads at Baldwin Place as well as DeCicco & Sons will be tested in the upcoming weeks.

One of the two hydrants at the Crossroads at Baldwin Place is behind the garbage enclosure. 1st Assistant Chief Mackey will conduct a site visit to make sure it can be easily identified and accessed.

It was reported that wooden pallets were blocking the exterior of the back door of Home Goods. Chief Fire Inspector Premuroso verbally notified the store manager that the area had to be cleared and the wooden pallets disposed of. In addition, the owner's maintenance supervisor took pictures and sent them to the corporate office. Mr. Premuroso will follow up to see that the issue has been rectified.

NEW BUSINESS

Somers Crossing Road Names – A review and discussion took place with regard to the proposed road names for Somers Crossing. It is the recommendation of the Bureau that another name be considered for Spring Meadow Court as the following similar road names exist in Town: Spring Court, Meadow Lane, Meadow View Lane, and Meadow Park Road. In keeping with the theme of colors, Amber Lane and Sienna Drive, perhaps Hazel Lane might be a reasonable alternative.

Driveway Gates Discussion – Bureau Chief Tooma would like to draft a local law to address driveway gate requirements. All will be provided with material for review and comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9th at 4:30 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 Board
Principal Engineering Technician
Somers Fire District