

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

THOMAS J. TOOMA, JR.
CHIEF



MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2025

Bureau Chief Tooma called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following were in attendance: Somers Volunteer Fire Department Chief Greg Lucia, Bureau Deputy Chief Rob Russell, Bureau Chief Tom Tooma, and Bureau Deputy Chief Al Vigliotti.

Somers Fire District Commissioner Anthony Sutton was also present.

MINUTES

Bureau Deputy Chief Russell made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025 meeting as submitted. Bureau Deputy Chief Vigliotti seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

Private Common Driveway Name Request

Cedar Haven subdivision was approved in 1999 with a common driveway easement for 2 lots off Watergate Drive in the already constructed Cale Farms subdivision. The addresses were already established during the Cale Farms subdivision leaving no numbers available for the common driveway lots. The builder is proposing to name the common driveway Bianca Way. There were no objections.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Solar Farm

At the July Bureau meeting, a preliminary review was requested of a proposed solar farm and the response was as follows:

1. Additional detail is required to review access for fire protection to this previously-undeveloped area of the site, to determine compliance with State and local codes, including vehicular paths for emergency access.
2. Additional details are requested on fire protection system capacity, including fire flow availability and hydrant location.
3. Provide additional detail on required maintenance practices and frequency for the project.
4. The Applicant's presence is requested to present the project and discuss details with the Bureau of Fire Prevention at a future meeting once the above requested items are provided.

This afternoon, the Bureau met with Ron Clamser and Jim Heubel of PNW BOCES; John Cirilli of Michael Shilale Architects, LLP; Doug Heller and Kara Tedford of The LA Group; and John Sanborn of Johnson Controls, Inc. to review and discuss the proposed solar farm project on the PNW BOCES campus. The Bureau had no issues with the gravel apron. In addition, the four comments made at the July 16, 2025 Bureau of Fire Prevention meeting and recorded in said minutes were responded to sufficiently. Those comments were as follows – the solar panels are 100% feeding back to the grid and there is no battery storage; there is an overall concern about access to water as the only hydrants are on the school property and that there is only one way in and one way out – the area around the solar panels will be mowed regularly and there is a yearly maintenance and equipment monitoring plan that the property owner will take over once the project is complete, and they indicated it will take place more than once yearly; they were reminded that area in Town very often experiences heavy tree and power damage when there is a storm; all existing vegetation will be cleared; the entire site will be fenced off and the gates will be manual; the Fire Department Chief will need Knox Box locks on the gates; the trees along Pines Bridge Road will be left as a natural buffer; emergency contact information will need to be posted on the inner gates; in case of an emergency, sections of the panels can be shut off or the entire panel can be; a plan for fire monitoring of the system would be advisable; the transformer switch needs to always be clear of debris and small animals; a fire truck maneuvering plan was provided and any sized fire truck could turn around; and the lifespan of the panels is 20 to 25 years.

The Bureau also came up with a list of "if possible" requests – fire extinguisher by solar panels; extended road from campus; fire hydrant 40' from proposed hammerhead; posting of a new 911 address; yearly site visits of the property by members of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department; and a copy of the snow removal and maintenance plans.

25 Route 116

A revised driveway plan for 25 Route 116 was reviewed and discussed. There were no objections.

SOMERS FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Lucia reported that the installation of Knox Boxes at commercial properties continues to be a work in progress. He is still missing some keys and will provide Mrs. Schirmer a list so she can reach out to the shopping center owners.

Since the last meeting, there was a small structure fire and a car drove into the building façade of a store in one of the shopping centers which resulted in a 3' intrusion. Both of these incidences were turned over to the Building Department.

Chief Lucia needs access to both the Town Highway Department and Department of Transportation gates and would like to put one of their pad locks on these gates. Mrs. Schirmer will follow up.

Recently the Fire Department has had to respond to calls because someone was stuck in the building elevator. A request will be made of Chief Fire Inspector Rich Servello to reach out to all the building owners in Somers that have elevators.

BUREAU CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Tooma reported that Best Plumbing is in the process of installing an automated system for fulfilling orders.

BUREAU DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Neither Deputy Chief Russell or Deputy Chief Vigliotti had anything to report this month.

CHIEF FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

There was no report this month.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. and the Bureau will meet next on October 15th at 4:30 p.m. in the Somers Building Department.

Sincerely,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Bureau of Fire Prevention

cc: Bureau of Fire Prevention
Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning Board
Principal Engineering Technician

Chief Fire Inspector
Somers Fire District