

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

May 20, 2026

Bureau Chief Tooma called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

The following were in attendance: Bureau Deputy Chief Greg Lucia, Bureau Deputy Chief Rob Russell, and Bureau Chief Tom Tooma.

MINUTES

Bureau Deputy Chief Russell made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2026 meeting as submitted. Bureau Deputy Chief Lucia seconded the motion. All were in favor.

SUBMISSIONS

8 Cottage Place

The Bureau met with prospective buyers of 8 Cottage Place regarding access to a proposed one family dwelling. The easement will be made wider via an agreement with the neighbor; an emergency vehicle can turnaround in the proposed driveway if necessary; and their engineer has confirmed that the plan is compliant with the NYS Fire Code.

247 Route 100

At their January meeting, the Bureau reviewed and discussed a plan that the owners of 247 Route 100 are proposing to build a new commercial building. Currently there is a 10,000-gallon buried water tank on the property and the Bureau would like a 60,000-gallon buried water tank to be added as part of this project. In addition, the Bureau would like the applicant to address all aspects of compliance of the 2025 NYS Fire Code. A memo was sent to the Planning Board. The applicant's representative contacted Mr. Tooma and asked about the 60,000-gallon water storage. Mr. Tooma responded. It was thought that the proposed building may require a sprinkler system.

A letter of response was received which spoke of the water storage, but did not address the request of all aspects of compliance of the 2025 NYS Fire Code. A memo was sent to the Planning Board requesting that the property owner attend the next Bureau meeting, today. The property owner and his architect met with the Bureau. A review and discussion took place and they will return to the June 17th meeting with the information that is being requested. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

Heritage Hills Water Treatment Plant

Veolia Water is proposing to build a new facility at 405 Route 202 to be placed next to their existing building. The Bureau reviewed plans submitted by the Planning Board at their April meeting and wanted to see a building section of the proposed building and wanted to know what will be stored inside, for example chemicals, flammables. In addition, they wanted them to address the sections of the 2025 NYS Fire Code as it pertains to emergency access. A representative from Veolia and three representatives from their engineering firm attended the meeting for a review and discussion. The same two chemicals being stored in the existing building will be moved into the new building. It was also noted that the primary gate has to be 18' wide and must have a Knox pad lock. There has to be a Knox Box on site for the existing and new buildings. There must be exterior horn strobes on both buildings. The proposed turning radius is fine and each building has to be labeled with a letter, A and B. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

North Edge Realty

The Bureau reviewed another submission from the Planning Board for North Edge Realty. There were no more questions or concerns. A memo will be sent to the Planning Board.

OLD BUSINESS

NFPA Hydrant Color Coding Local Law

At the July 2025 Bureau meeting, Mr. Russell thought it would make a lot of sense for the Town to follow the NFPA Hydrant Color Codes as they are done so by hydrant pressure and all agreed. A motion was made by Mr. Russell that the Town follow the NFPA standards for color coding hydrants and Mr. Vigliotti seconded the motion. All were in favor. This information will first be shared with Chief Fire Inspector Rich Servello and Water Department Superintendent Fred McQuillan. If they concur, a memo will be sent to the Town Board to make it a local law and add it to Chapter 98-10.

At the August 2025 Bureau meeting, it was reported that this information was shared with Chief Fire Inspector Rich Servello and Water Department Superintendent Fred McQuillan who indicated that this process has been in place and began with the former Water Department Superintendent Adam Smith.

Mr. Servello further commented that at the moment, the hydrants are yellow and red signifying Town owned and privately owned, which he is pleased about. Mr. Servello had a conversation with Mr. McQuillan about at least color coding the bonnets based on

the GPM's however he simply has no staff to do this, cannot hire additional staff or supervise an Eagle Scout who might do it as a project as suggested by Rob Russell. Although Mr. Servello would like to see this written into the Code, at present it would be difficult to enforce, especially since the work will fall on the Town. Since Mr. McQuillan recently left his position, the thought was to wait until a new Water Department Superintendent is hired and a meeting set up with the Bureau, Mr. Servello and that new person.

In the meantime, Mr. Lucia presented a draft of a proposed local law. Changes were made and the final draft will be discussed again when a new Water Department Superintendent is hired.

Notification was received that acting Water Department Philip Quiles has been given the position. The proposed law will be shared with him and then a meeting will be set up.

Proposed Local Law Apartments Master Key Update

There have been recent incidences with the Fire Department not able to access multi-family apartments when there is an emergency or natural gas issue. A request is being made to propose a local law for the facilities affected provide an emergency access key in the Knox Box on the property that only the Fire Department will have access to. Mr. Lucia provided a draft for which there were no changes. This new local law was proposed to the Town Board. After a discussion, a Public Hearing was set for June 11th.

SOMERS FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF'S REPORT

Somers Volunteer Fire Department Chief Lucia asked Mrs. Schirmer to reach out to Regency Centers regarding the need for Knox Box keys for one of the buildings at 80 Route 6.

BUREAU CHIEF'S REPORT

Bureau Chief Tooma wanted the members to be aware of a new business, Back Nine that is in front of the Planning Board. It will be located at 80 Route 6.

BUREAU DEPUTY CHIEF'S REPORT

Deputy Chief Lucia and Deputy Chief Russell had nothing to add this evening.

CHIEF FIRE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

There was no report this month.

NEW BUSINESS

Code Chapter Changes

Mr. Lucia tweaked Chapters 98 and 157 of the Code, which were shared with all for review and comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. and the Bureau will meet next on June 17th 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