

Somers Fire Commission

1. Board of Fire Commissioners

The Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) shall consist of five (5) members appointed in accordance with Chapter 5 of the Charter. Vacancies shall also be filled by appointment of the Board of Selectmen in accordance with Chapter 5 of the Charter. At the first meeting of the BOFC following each biennial election, the BOFC shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary to serve as officers of the BOFC for a term of two (2) years. In the event of removal or resignation of any such officer, after the vacancy thus created has been filled by the Board of Selectmen, the BOFC shall hold a special election to replace the vacated officer. The BOFC may adopt bylaws for the orderly transaction of its business not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

2. Duties of BOFC

Before engaging in any activities of the BOFC, each duly appointed Commissioner shall be sworn to the faithful performance of duty as a Fire Commissioner by the Town Clerk. The BOFC shall make an annual report to the Board of Selectmen. By February 1 of each year, the BOFC shall file with the First Selectman detailed estimates of proposed expenditures to be made on behalf of the Somers Fire Department for the ensuing fiscal year. Members of the Board of Fire Commissioners shall serve without compensation, except that actual expenditures of any member incurred while on official business may, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be reimbursed to the member from funds budgeted for such expenses.

3. Powers of BOFC

The Board of Fire Commissioners, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen, shall be responsible for the financial management of Town funds used by the Somers Fire Department to provide Emergency Services to the Town of Somers, and for the supervision and care of all equipment, apparatus, buildings, land and supplies purchased by or donated to the Town of Somers for use in providing such emergency protection services.

Emergency Services personnel shall consist of all volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance personnel, paid firefighters, paid ambulance personnel and auxiliary members.

4. Appointment of Chief of the Fire Department

Following a majority vote of the members of the Somers Fire Department, the BOFC shall approve a Fire Chief (Chief of Emergency Services) to serve in this capacity for a term of two (2) years. All appointments to this office shall be made by the BOFC at a Regular or Special meeting during the period between the election of the Chief and the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent officer. The effective dates of the appointee's term of office shall be recited in the resolution of the appointing Board and recorded in its minutes. Before assuming office, each appointed Chief of Emergency Services shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties by the Town Clerk.

5. Duties of Chief of Fire Services

The Chief of Emergency Services shall be empowered as established in the Connecticut General Statutes and shall further be responsible for the supervision of the education, training and preparedness of all Emergency Services personnel participating in the fire department in the Town of Somers.

6. Removal of Chief of Fire Services

A Chief of Fire Services appointed pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter shall be dismissed during his term of office only in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes.

7. Appointment of Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal and Fire Inspectors

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a Fire Marshal and such deputy fire marshals and/or inspectors as may be necessary having at least the minimum qualifications required by the Connecticut General Statutes. Before assuming office, each appointee shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties by the Town Clerk. The fire marshal, deputy fire marshals and/or inspectors shall be subject to the Town's Personnel Policies and Guidelines.

Upon hiring a Career Fire Chief, the Career Fire Chief shall recommend to the Board of Selectmen for hire the qualified individuals to serve: Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal and/or Inspectors. These individuals shall report to the Career Fire Chief.

8 Duties of Fire Marshal

The Fire Marshal shall be responsible for the investigation of the cause, origin and circumstances of any fire or explosion in the Town of Somers. He shall be responsible for the inspection at least once every calendar year of all buildings and facilities of public service and all occupancies regulated by fire safety codes of the Town of Somers and State of Connecticut. He shall assist the Board of Fire Commissioners in the preparation of its annual report and budget. He shall attend the meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners as requested by the BOFC and provide the BOFC with monthly reports of all fire services and inspections performed in the town. He shall perform any other similar and related duties assigned to him by the BOFC or BOS, including but not limited to responsibility for the enforcement of any rules and regulations as enacted by the BOS and to the extent the BOS so prescribes.

9. Removal of Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal and Inspectors

The Fire Marshall, Deputy Fire Marshal and Inspectors appointed pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance shall be dismissed during his term of office in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes.

10. Appointment of Career Chief of Fire services

Notwithstanding anything in this Ordinance to the contrary, the Board of Selectmen may appoint a career Chief of Emergency Services who will assume all duties and powers of the current volunteer Chief of Emergency Services as set forth in this Ordinance and as provided by law. At such time as the Town of Somers enters into an agreement with the Somers Volunteer Fire Department Association, said agreement entitled "Fire Department Agreement", the career Chief of Emergency Services shall be designated as the Chief of the Fire Department. In the event that the Charter of the Town of Somers or this Ordinance is amended in the future so as to eliminate the Board of Fire Commissioners, the career Chief of Emergency Services shall, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen, assume the duties and obligations of the former Board of Fire Commissioners as set forth in this Ordinance

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