

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE FOR FIRE  
PROTECTION AMENDING CHAPTER 87**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2002**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**999, 1215**

President Jonathan Harris called the hearing to order at 6:20 p.m.

Present were Councillors Rob Bouvier, Kevin Connors, Carl Donatelli, Jonathan Harris, Maureen Kelly McClay, Andrew Schoolnik, Scott Slifka and Art Spada. Councillor Al Turco was absent.

President Harris: Mr. O'Brien is there a sign up sheet?

Mr. O'Brien: Yes there is but no one has signed up.

President Harris: There is no one on the sign up sheet. Are there any members of the public that are present that have not signed up that would like to speak on this ordinance? Any questions from the Council? Mr. Feldman could you please describe for the record this ordinance, the amendment?

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Mayor what you have is an ordinance that for the first time requires private property owners that have hydrants on their property to maintain those hydrants and the ordinance goes on to describe that if the maintenance should not occur then the Town may actually step in, provide the maintenance on those hydrants or order the maintenance of those hydrants. There is a penalty section as well. Overall it is again an ordinance that deals I think very effectively with the public safety issue that was raised during an ISO, insurance service office, and an inspection they did of the town several years ago and it was an item that they identified in their safety audit which is by means of this ordinance should correct that deficiency that they pointed out.

President Harris: Thank you Mr. Feldman. Mr. Connors.

Councillor Connors: So one of the implications of not having some of this protection maintained could be a downgrading or a rating from an insurance standpoint which would impact the premiums for commercial property and residential property as well so it is important that we get this done.

President Harris: Thank you Mr. Connors. A question perhaps to Corporation Counsel. And there fines that can be levied on a daily basis for failure to comply?

Mr. O'Brien: Yes.

President Harris: And also the Town can charge for the costs of stepping into the shoes of the owner and doing the repair of the maintenance.

Mr. O'Brien: That is correct, yes.

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President Harris: Would those fines or those costs then be a lien on the property that we could foreclose on at some point?

Mr. O'Brien: If they are not paid, yes. We could file a lien on the property.

President Harris: But we would have to file a lien? Is it a statutory lien or something that is actually out there?

Mr. O'Brien: We actually would have to get a judgment against the property owner and then file a lien on the property.

President Harris: It wouldn't be liened automatically?

Mr. O'Brien: No. No it is not.

President Harris: Thank you. Any further questions or discussion? We will close the public hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk