

**TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2012**

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This meeting of the Pleasant Valley Fire Advisory Board took place on May 15, 2012, at the Pleasant Valley Town Hall, 1554 Main Street, Pleasant Valley, New York. Paul Caltagirone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Paul Caltagirone, Chair; Matt Cady, Jeff Cady, Rick Fay, Floyd Gaddis
Members Absent: Jeff Renihan, Keith Cartica

Boardmember Cady wished to discuss a few items. Going back to the last meeting, a discussion was held regarding Coachmen Way off Smith Road. There were problems and concerns last year during the winter that it was not maintained to the level of allowing a fire vehicle or ambulance to gain access and to find out what the FAB can do with either the Planning or Zoning Board of Appeals or Building Department to get it taken care of so that it does not happen again with that or another subdivision. Chairman Caltagirone was uncertain what the FAB could do as far as the possibility of zoning amendments regarding engineering design of driveways and access from a vehicular standpoint. He said he has to believe that recommendations should be made; but that there should be ordinances in place for owners of private road to maintain them in a manner similar to the way town, county and state roads are maintained. He suggested sending a memo to the highway department that this is the condition that fire department found the road in and that it should be inspected on a regular basis and maintained and if there is no authority in the law for the highway department or the building department to issue some kind of citation to maintain it, then the FAB needs to make a recommendation to the Town Board to enact some type of ordinance that requires private roadways to be maintained to the same degree as town roadways. He thinks the first step would be a reference to the highway department and see what their response it. If they come back and say they have no authority to do anything about it, then the FAB needs to make a recommendation to the Town Board. Another item Boardmember Cady brought up was standards for driveways to allow fire apparatus ingress and egress. Chairman Caltagirone stated that standards are not written anywhere; it is recommendations that the FAB has made to the Planning Board as a condition of their approval. He does not see the need for an ordinance stating such; as long as the Planning Board is following the FAB's recommendations, he does not see why there needs to be an ordinance because each application is site specific and requires different design standards according to the features of the property. He feels that as long as the Planning Board accepts the recommendations of the FAB and makes them a condition of the approval. Once they are a condition of approval, they are the same as an ordinance, but it is particularized to that piece of property. Moving on, the subject of dry hydrants was brought up. Chairman Caltagirone stated that he prefers to not micro-manage projects through ordinances; but the FAB is better micro-managing through approvals and if a particular property looks like a property that was better served by a dry hydrant system, then it should be recommended as a condition of approval as opposed to maintaining a certain height and width design in driveways with certain pull-offs and cul-de-sacs and should be considered individually according to the

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features of a specific property. Boardmember Cady then brought up an idea concerning a fire use/protection fee to be charged out at \$200 per single family home for fire use and \$500 per 4 or more unit apartment buildings to get water to the area in the event of a fire emergency. Chairman Caltagirone responded that while he is not opposed to it, the issue that strikes him is who maintains the fund? Does the money go to the fire department? The town? Can the fund be only used for certain purposes? It is a very complex issue. Another thought Boardmember Cady brought up was connecting stormwater runoff into large underground cisterns meant to provide water for fire suppression which is then connected to a dry hydrant. Chairman Caltagirone suggested that perhaps whenever the FAB makes recommendations with conditions, the project goes back on the FAB agenda after the Planning Board has granted site plan approval so that they know exactly what conditions have been written into the approval as a method of ensuring all conditions have been met. Chairman Caltagirone also suggested that the FAB meet every two months whether there is any necessity for a meeting just to catch up and review prior approvals or to see if there are any issues going on that may require the FAB's attention. A letter should be sent to the Highway Department and the Building Department indicating the FAB is prepared to act upon any matter in any way, if it's appropriate, as to how any matter can be addressed from a fire safety perspective.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes, as written, of the September 7, 2011 FAB meeting was introduced by Chairman Caltagirone, seconded by Boardmember Cady and passed 5-0 in favor, 2 absent.

Motion to adjourn introduced by Chairman Caltagirone, seconded by Boardmember Gaddis and passed 5-0 in favor, 2 absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Fricchione
Secretary

The foregoing represents the unofficial minutes of the May 15, 2012 meeting of the Pleasant Valley Fire Advisory Board. They are not official and should not be construed as the official minutes until approved.

 X Approved as read

 Approved as corrected