

CHAPTER V

FIRE PROTECTION

5.01 CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION.

The President and Board of Trustees of the Village shall be empowered to provide fire protection for the Village by contract with the Village of Sturtevant, the Town of Mt. Pleasant, the City of Racine, or with any other adjoining municipality, or with more than one municipality upon such terms and conditions as they may deem just and proper.

5.02 VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Fire Department or Volunteer Fire Department of the municipalities with which the Board may contract for fire protection is hereby officially recognized as the fire department of the Village of Elmwood Park, and the duty of firefighting and the prevention of fires in the Village of Elmwood Park is hereby delegated to such department or departments.

5.03 POWERS AND DUTIES OF CHIEF.

The Chief and personnel of the Fire Department or Departments of the municipalities with which the Village may contract for fire protection shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) The Chief shall have general supervision of the Department subject to this Ordinance and the By-Laws of the Department and shall be responsible for the personnel and general efficiency of the Department.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Chief to preside at all meetings of the Department, to call special meetings, to preserve order, to decide all points of order that may arise and to enforce a rigid observance of this Ordinance and the By-Laws.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Chief or any assistant to be present at all fires, to have complete command of and entire responsibility for all firefighting operations, to plan the control of the same, to direct the action of the companies when they arrive at a fire, to observe that every company does its duty, to grant leaves of absence at a fire when he may deem it proper, and to see that the fire apparatus is kept in proper condition at all times.
- (4) It shall be the duty of the Chief to submit a written report to the Village Board no later than February 1st of each year, and at such other times as he deems desirable, listing the number of fires occurring since the previous report, the date of same and loss occasioned thereby, and any other data that may be pertinent for the Village governing body to be aware of and requested by the Fire Department.
- (5) He shall enforce all fire prevention ordinances of the Village and State laws and regulations pertaining to fire prevention and shall keep citizens informed on fire prevention methods and on the activities of the Department.
- (6) He shall keep a fire record book of every fire to which any company was called and shall enter in such book the locality of fire, time alarm was received, cause of fire, where fire started, cause of delay (if any) in responding, method of extinguishment and equipment used, amount of

insurance carried on building and contents, estimated fire loss, time fire was extinguished, names of men responding and general remarks.

(7) He shall keep an inventory of all apparatus and equipment and an inventory of all hose showing dates and results of tests on each length, which shall be individually identified.

(8) He shall perform such other duties as are incumbent on the commanding officer of the Fire Department.

5.04 FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY.

(1) The Chief shall have control of all apparatus used by the Department

(2) No apparatus shall be used for any purpose except for firefighting within the limits of the municipalities contracting therefor. With the approval of the Chief, such apparatus may be used for emergency purposes other than firefighting within such municipalities. A written report of all such uses shall be made quarterly to the Village Board.

(3) No person shall willfully injure in any manner any hose, hydrant or fire apparatus belonging to the Department, Departments or Village, and no vehicle shall be driven over an unprotected hose of a fire department when laid down on any street, private driveway or other place, to be used at any fire or alarm of fire without the consent of the Fire Department official in command.

5.05 POLICE POWER OF DEPARTMENT.

(1) The Chief and assistants or officers in command at any fire are hereby vested with full and complete police authority at fires. Any officer of the Department may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right-of-way to the Fire Department in responding to a fire.

(2) The Fire Chief may prescribe certain limits in the vicinity of the fire within which no persons, excepting firemen and policemen and those admitted by order of any officer of the Department, shall be permitted to come. The Chief shall have the power to cause the removal of any property from fire or to prevent the spreading of fire or to protect the adjoining property, and during the progress of any fire he shall have the power to order the removal or destruction of any property necessary to prevent the further spread of the fire. He shall also have the power to cause the removal of all wires or other facilities and the turning off of all electricity or other services where the same impedes the work of the Department during the progress of a fire.

(3) It shall be lawful for any fireman while acting under the direction of the Fire Chief or other officer in command to enter upon the premises adjacent to or in the vicinity of any building or other property then on fire for the purpose of extinguishing such fire and in case any person shall hinder, resist or obstruct any fireman in the discharge of his duty as is hereinbefore provided, the person so offending shall be deemed guilty of resisting fireman in the discharge of their duty.

(4) Every person who shall be present at a fire shall be subject to the orders of the Fire Chief or officer in command and may be required to render assistance in fighting the fire or in removing or guarding property. Such officer shall have the power to cause the arrest of any person or persons refusing to obey said orders.

5.06 FIRE INSPECTORS: DUTIES.

(1) The Chief of the Fire Department shall hold the office of fire inspector, with power to appoint one or more deputy fire inspectors, who shall perform the same duties and have the same powers as the fire inspector.

(2) It shall be the duty of the fire inspectors to inspect quarterly all buildings, except private dwellings, premises and thoroughfares within the Village in order to bring about the correction of any conditions likely to cause fire. The inspectors shall also investigate the storage and handling of explosives and inflammable liquids within the Village.

(3) Whenever and wherever in the Village any inspection by the Fire Chief or his deputies reveals a fire hazard, the Chief or his deputies shall serve a notice in writing upon the owner of the property giving said owner a reasonable time in which to remove the hazard. In the event that the fire hazard is not removed within the time allowed, it shall be deemed a nuisance. The Fire Chief or his deputy is authorized to request the same be removed by the Village, and the cost of such removal shall be recovered in an action by the Village against the owner of the property.

(4) The Chief shall keep a written record of each property inspected which shall conform to the requirements of the Industrial Commission and shall make the quarterly report of inspections required by the Industrial Commission.

(5) No person shall hinder or obstruct the fire inspector in the performance of his duty or refuse to perform any lawful direction given by him.

5.07 FALSE FIRE ALARMS.

It shall be unlawful for any person by any means or in any manner to give or make, or cause anyone to give or make any false, misleading or untruthful call or fire alarm which causes or which is given under such circumstances as likely to cause, any fire department to respond with men and equipment as if to attend an actual fire, and any person who violates this provision in addition to being required to pay the charge submitted to the Village for the answering of such false fire alarm, shall upon conviction thereof be subject to penalty as provided in Section 15.04 of this Code.

5.08 PENALTIES.

Any person, firm or corporation that shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 15.04 of this Code.

(Amended and Approved 6/13/19)