

CHAPTER XI

VILLAGE OF BELLOWS FALLS MUNICIPAL FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE

As amended on January 13, 2005
Effective Date: March 14, 2005

PURPOSE: It is the purpose of this ordinance to provide a reliable, cost effective Municipal Fire Alarm System to meet the fire notification and protection needs of the community.

ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS

Accidental Alarm: Any activation of an alarm system, which is the result of an accidental occurrence or mishap. Examples include burned food, steam from a shower, and good-faith assumptions of a fire condition.

Alarm Supervisory Panel: A control unit that serves the protected premises as a local control unit and receives input from fire or smoke detection devices.

Annunciator Panel: A unit containing one or more indicator lamps, alphanumeric displays, or other equivalent means in which each indication provides status information about a circuit, condition, or location.

BOCA: Building Officials Code Association

False Alarm: Any activation of an alarm system, which is not the result of a fire, emergency call for assistance, or accidental alarm. This shall include alarms improperly or maliciously sounded, alarms that turned out to be groundless, and system malfunctions.

Fire Watch: A qualified person as determined by the fire department posted in the event that the fire alarm system is out of service. This will be a responsible party that will be able to immediately notify the fire department in the event of a fire at the property.

Heat Detector: A fire detector that detects either abnormally high temperature or rate of rise, or both.

ICC: International Code Council.

IMSA: International Municipal Signal Association

Key Vault: A non-destructive key box entry system used to store keys for access to a building.

Master Box: A municipal fire alarm box that can be operated by a building's fire alarm system.

Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit: A circuit that is run throughout the community that is maintained by the Bellows Falls Fire Department. This circuit is used to connect and receive fire alarms from approved equipment directly at the fire station.

NFPA: National Fire Protection Association

Smoke Detector: A device that detects visible or invisible particles of combustion.

Street Box: A manually operated fire alarm box. Usually located on utility poles or pedestals.

ARTICLE 2 FIRE ALARM REGULATIONS

Section 1: **FIRE ALARM REGULATIONS:** All alarms installed in the Village of Bellows Falls and all other areas covered by the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit pursuant to this section shall conform to the standards set forth in State Law, NFPA publications, the National Electrical Code and the BOCA Codes. Minimum requirements for the installation of alarm initiating equipment in the village of Bellows Falls shall be as follows:

Section 2: **MANDATORY CONNECTION:** Any property required by NFPA 101 Life Safety Code to have a fire department notification alarm system must connect to the Bellows Falls Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

ARTICLE 3 ALL INSTALLATIONS

Section 1: **GENERAL**

- A) Before the installation of any interior fire alarm system, master box, or street boxes the owner or owner's appointed representative for the proposed system installation shall submit a detailed set of plans, blueprints, specifications, etc. outlining the system and its components to the State of Vermont Department of Labor and Industry, Fire Prevention Division and Bellows Falls Fire Department for review and approval before installation begins.
- B) Application and Approval shall be obtained from the Bellows Falls Fire Department for the installation of any master or street box to be connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit. This process must be completed before any installation work can begin.
- C) Installation of a Key Vault shall be required at all locations where a fire alarm and/or sprinkler system is being installed or is currently in use. Applications for a Key Vault are available at the Bellows Falls Fire Department. (see Article 13, Section 1)
- D) All fire alarm equipment shall be new, unless otherwise approved by the Bellows Falls Fire Department, and shall be furnished and installed by a State of Vermont Licensed Electrical Contractor approved to do the work.
- E) In the event of reoccurring trouble or faults developing in any part of a private system that is connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit, it shall be the prerogative of the Bellows Falls Fire Department to disconnect any part, or all of the private system, from the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuits. If the private alarm system is disconnected from the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit all reasonable

attempts will be made to contact the owner or owner's appointed representative by phone and in writing. The owner should then notify their insurer of the disconnection.

(see Article 9)

- F) Any or all parts of existing fire alarm systems, in a building undergoing renovation may be required to conform to the requirements for new installations as outlined in NFPA 101 Life Safety Code Section 1-3.7. The Bellows Falls Fire Department shall be the authority having jurisdiction in application of the code.

All fire alarm installations shall conform to the requirements of NFPA, IMSA, BOCA, ICC and any applicable fire alarm related code(s) in effect.

A Key Vault access system to the protected property shall be installed before the alarm is put in service and/or connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit. (see Article 13, Section 1)

Code wheel numbers for all master boxes shall be assigned and approved by the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

A \$100.00 connection fee, payable to the Bellows Falls Village Corporation, will be assessed for each master box connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

This connection fee shall be paid before any master box is connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

- Section 2: **SMOKE DETECTORS:** Smoke detectors installed within the protected property, and attached to the buildings fire protection system, shall be of an approved type for the installation, and shall bear the label of the "Underwriters Laboratory." All detectors within a single system shall be of the same design and manufacture.

Detectors shall be installed and spaced in accordance with NFPA 72-E.

Smoke detectors shall have an alarm indicating light, which shall illuminate upon activation of each detector.

Detector operating current shall be supervised in the Main Fire Alarm Panel. A trouble signal shall sound at the control panel in the event of power loss to the system.

- Section 3: **RESIDENTIAL SMOKE DETECTORS:** All residential housing units are required by Vermont State Fire Code and Village of Bellows Falls Fire Code to have correctly installed and operating smoke detectors. Residential single station smoke detectors shall have a primary power supply by AC circuit and shall have a battery back up.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to properly install sufficient number of smoke detectors in every residential unit in accordance to NFPA codes 1, 101 and the Vermont Fire Prevention and Building Code. The property owner is also responsible for servicing the detectors as needed to ensure their proper operation at all times.

FAILURE TO INSTALL OR MAINTAIN: Failing to properly install and/or properly service smoke detectors in working order at all times is a violation of this ordinance.

If it is determined by a representative of the Bellows Falls Fire Department that smoke detectors are not installed and serviced in proper working order by the property owner. Civil penalties will be assessed against the property owner under Article 10, Section 1, of this ordinance.

Section 4: **TAMPERING WITH DETECTION EQUIPMENT:** It is a violation of this ordinance to tamper with, disable or not maintain smoke detectors in an operable condition.

If it is determined by a representative of the Bellows Falls Fire Department that properly installed and operating smoke detectors have been tampered with, deliberately made inoperable or are not maintained in an operable condition, Civil penalties under Article 10, Section 1, of this ordinance will be assessed against the resident/tenant of record for the property and/or any responsible party.

Section 5: **HEAT DETECTORS:** Any heat detection devices installed shall be of the combination rate-of-rise and fixed temperature type, except in locations where it is normal for rapid changes in temperature to exist, such as areas housing ovens, heating coils, boilers, furnaces, etc. These locations shall use a fixed temperature detector approved for the location.

Heat detection devices shall be installed and spaced in accordance with NFPA 72- E and manufacturer's specifications.

All heat detection devices shall bear the label of "Underwriters Laboratory."

Section 6: **FIRE ALARM MANUAL PULL STATIONS:** All pull stations installed within the protected property shall be an approved type for the installation and shall be consistent. The pull stations must be of a type approved by the Bellows Falls Fire Department. When a pull station is replaced or added it must be of the same type that is consistent throughout the building.

Pull stations shall bear the label of "Underwriters Laboratory" and shall be installed and spaced in accordance with NFPA 72-E and the recommendations of the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

Pull stations shall be red and shall have the instructions for operation clearly shown on the face of the station.

Special pull stations designed to deter false alarms may be required by the Bellows Falls Fire Department in areas of a protected property or for certain occupancies of the property.

Access to the interior of the pull station for the purpose of resetting or testing shall be provided to the Bellows Falls Fire Department. If a special tool or device is required to gain access to the interior of a pull station then it shall be provided to the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

No pull station shall be acceptable to the Bellows Falls Fire Department if it requires the replacement of flangible disc, glass rod, or other such device upon which the station is dependent for resetting. This requirement shall not rule out the use of other such attachments with the intention of deterring false alarms.

The Bellows Falls Fire Department requires that for all new installations the pull stations be of the type that can be reset by a standard common alarm system key.

Section 7: **AUDIBLE SIGNAL DEVICES:** All fire alarm systems connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit shall also have some method of warning the occupants of the protected property in the event the system activates.

All audible alarms, audiovisual units, or other types of warning devices shall comply with NFPA 72-A.

There shall be one (1) or more audible/visual signaling devices installed on each floor of the protected property, so located that their operation will be clearly heard and seen regardless of the maximum noise level under normal conditions. Each section of a floor divided by a separation shall be considered as a separate area.

Section 8: **SPRINKLER SYSTEM WATER FLOW DETECTION:** Sprinkler System Water Flow Detection installed as a part of the protected property alarm system will have a "Underwriters Laboratory" approved delay device which will prevent false signals from being sent to the Fire Department as a result of low water pressure and/or pressure surges in the system.

Section 9: **SPRINKLER SYSTEM TAMPER PROTECTION:** Electrical switches installed on sprinkler systems to prevent tampering with system valves and components will be wired as a local trouble alarm only on the main alarm panel. Activated tamper switches shall not transmit any alarm to the Bellows Falls Fire Station via the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

Section 10: **ALARM TROUBLE SIGNALS:** Alarm Trouble Signals of any origin will be wired in the alarm system so they **DO NOT** transmit any type of signal or alarm over the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit or will not trip the Master Box for the protected property.

Section 11: **ALARM SUPERVISORY PANEL (MASTER FIRE ALARM PANEL):** A supervisory control panel shall be installed as a main control point for the building's fire alarm system. This master fire alarm panel shall be used to for the features listed in Article 3 Section 11 (1). Panel lock keys shall be made available to the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

1. The control panel shall feature the following:
 - a. zone indication
 - b. alarm silence switch
 - c. system reset switch
 - d. trouble buzzer and light
 - e. trouble silence switch
 - f. ring back feature
 - g. Master Box Disconnect switch is not allowed and must be removed from the supervisory panel.
2. The location and area of all alarm system zones will be clearly marked by each zone indicator on the alarm panel and an acceptable zone map shall be provided to the Bellows Falls Fire Department.
3. All controls shall be secured from unauthorized use by occupants of the protected property.
4. An annunciator panel shall be supplied and installed to identify the location of all originating signals in an installation where the fire alarm system will cover:
 - a. more than one (1) building
 - b. more than one (1) floor
 - c. or the alarm panel is located in a remote location away from the Fire Department access

Each zone on the annunciator must be clearly marked to identify the area of coverage. The Bellows Falls Fire Department may require more zones depending on building size, occupancy or hazard protected.

The location of the annunciator panel shall be determined by the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

5. The alarm supervisory panel (main alarm panel) shall conform to the requirements of NFPA 72-A and the following Bellows Falls Fire Department requirements:
 - a. Access to the control functions of the alarm system is limited to the Bellows Falls Fire Department and authorized alarm service personnel only.
 - b. When the panel is indicating zone trouble, activation of any detection or initiating device shall initiate the alarm.
 - c. Upon activation of a detector or pull station, the panel shall lock on the initiating circuit with audible and visual indication. Silencing the audible shall not cause the panel to reset.
 - d. Every alarm supervisory panel shall be equipped with adequate lightning and surge protection.

Section 12: **WIRING:** All alarm system wiring components shall conform to the National Electrical Code, NFPA 70, and NFPA 72.

All exposed wiring shall be installed in conduit or tubing approved by the Bellows Falls Fire Department and shall terminate with a weatherhead before the junction box connection.

All wiring used with the installation of street boxes shall conform to IMSA requirements and NFPA 72.

Section 13: **ALARM SYSTEM POWER SUPPLY:** Power for the fire alarm system shall be a separate designated AC circuit from the property electrical power service. The Fire Alarm Power Supply Circuit shall be clearly marked and locked in the on/energized position.

The system shall be designed so that loss of operating current will not activate the system and the system shall not lose its effectiveness.

The secondary power supply shall conform to the provisions of NFPA 72-A.

ARTICLE 4 CONNECTION TO MUNICIPAL CIRCUITS

Section 1: **MASTER ALARM BOX:** The Master Box shall be a Gamewell, either new or conditioned as approved by the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

The box shall be located in a position approved by the Bellows Falls Fire Department and must be easily accessible at all times and in all weather conditions.

The property owner is responsible for maintaining clear access to the master box, free from any and all obstruction.

The box shall be mounted so the pull station is no less than forty-eight inches (48") and no more than fifty-four (54") inches from the finished grade.

The Master Fire Alarm Box shall be of the "local energy" type with the following features:

- a. non-interference
- b. quick succession
- c. automatic grounding under open Municipal circuit
- d. telegraph key
- e. tap bell
- f. lock and key - Bellows Falls Fire Department specification
- g. code wheel index - Bellows Falls Fire Department specification
- h. manual actuating level
- i. timing one-half second (1/2 second rounds)
- j. flush mounted boxes shall be weatherproof.

Master Fire Alarm Boxes shall be provided with the appropriate code wheel installed as assigned by the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

Where required a red light of no less than twenty-five (25) watts shall be mounted above the Master Fire Alarm Box. This light shall flash upon activation of the Box and interior fire protection system. Installation of these units will be at the discretion of the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

The owner of the property shall be responsible for all fire alarm connection costs and maintenance, whether aerial or underground from the fire alarm box to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit. This is to include all appropriate pole hardware and connection devices. The responsibility of the Bellows Falls Fire Department for the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit ends at the last pole or connection junction going to the protected property.

All costs of equipment and installation, including extension of the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit, shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property to be protected at the time of installation and connection to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

Aerial extensions of the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit shall be installed by the Bellows Falls Fire Department Alarm Division and be charged to the owner/developer of the property on a time and material basis.

Underground extensions of the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit shall be installed in accordance with the specifications contained in this ordinance and at the expense of the owner/developer of the property to be protected.

Upon completion of a satisfactory test of the Fire Alarm system by the Bellows Falls Fire Department, the system shall be tied into the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit. The Bellows Falls Fire Department shall make all final tie-ins and connections to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

A \$100.00 fee, payable to the Bellows Falls Village Corporation, will be assessed for each master box to be connected or reconnected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit. This shall include relocation of existing boxes and new master boxes. This fee shall be paid before connection to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

Section 2: **STREET ALARM BOXES:** With approval of utility pole or property owner street boxes shall be installed by and at locations approved by the Bellows Falls Fire Department in accordance with NFPA 1221.

Street boxes shall be mounted on new or existing utility poles or on pedestals.

The street box shall be mounted so the pull station is no less than forty-eight inches (48") and no more than fifty-four (54") inches above finished grade.

Utility poles that have street boxes attached may be marked:

- 1) With a band of distinctive colors, or
- 2) With a banner that reads either FIRE or FIRE/EMERGENCY

Either marking shall be visible above all parked cars and in all directions. In addition, the designation FIRE/EMERGENCY or FIRE in reflective material shall be attached to both sides of each street box. Street boxes shall have the same operating features as master boxes.

ARTICLE 5 CONNECTION TO THE MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT HARDWARE

Section 1: **AERIAL CONNECTION:** A minimum of three-quarter (3/4") schedule 40 PVC conduit terminated with a weatherhead, shall be attached to the pole terminating at a minimum of 18 inches (18") above existing Telephone Cable or sixteen (16') feet above finished grade from the master box in accordance with IMSA requirements. (also see Section 3 Buried Conduit)

A utility grade eyebolt or similar approved device shall be installed next to the weatherhead to properly secure the aerial cable. A junction box shall be installed on the utility pole for connection of the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit to the master or street box. The Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit shall not be directly connected to any fire alarm circuit by splicing or with wire nuts.

Connection from the master or street box to the junction box on the utility pole shall be with a minimum of two (2) #14 AWG, THWN solid copper wires. These wires shall not be the same color.

The maximum allowed span for aerial cable is two hundred (200') feet. For distances from the weatherhead to the utility pole exceeding two hundred (200') feet additional poles will be required.

The path for the aerial service may not cross over buildings or through trees. Branches shall be cut out to provide clear spaces for the aerial cable and maintained clear of any obstructions at all times.

Section 2: **UNDERGROUND (Direct Burial):** Direct burial of any alarm wire or cable is **NOT** permitted.

Section 3: **FIRE ALARM WIRE UNDERGROUND INSTALLATIONS (Buried Conduit):** **Underground fire alarm wire installations shall be** IMSA certified four (4) conductor #12 AWG solid copper conductor with polyethylene jacket duct cable installed in one and one half (1 1/2") inch minimum schedule forty (40) PVC. If the conduit containing fire alarm wire passes under a roadway or parking lot then schedule eighty (80) PVC shall be used.

Conduit shall be cemented at all joints and weatherproofed to prevent intrusion of water.

Minimum depth of conduit and wire below finished grade shall be not less than eighteen (18") or more than twenty-four (24") inches.

All buried conduit shall be bedded in screened sand completely surrounding the cable, minimum of six (6") inches top, bottom and sides.

From the underground conduit, a sweep-ell of schedule forty (40) PVC will be provided at the base of any utility poles. Cable will be extended up the pole using schedule forty (40) PVC electrical grade conduit to a height approximately eighteen (18") inches above existing telephone cables. The conduit will terminate using a weatherhead.

The installer will provide 1 inch (1") minimum rigid steel conduit from twelve inches (12") below finished grade to terminate at the Master or Street Alarm Box. Conduit bushings will always be used at all connections.

All buried alarm wire or cable will be recorded and mapped (pictures or accurate hand sketches on 8 ½" by 11" paper are acceptable) and will be filed by both the property owner and the Fire Department Alarm Division for future reference.

*** All underground alarm installation hardware from the master box to the utility pole or termination point must be inspected by the Bellows Falls Fire Department **BEFORE** it is backfilled. Failure to arrange for such inspection will result in not being able to connect the system to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

Section 5: **LIGHTNING PROTECTION:** Lightning protection for the municipal Fire Alarm Circuit shall be provided by the contractor when the master box is installed. This lightning protection shall consist of a TII Model 317A or equivalent located inside the master box.

Section 6: **GROUNDING:** The fire alarm box and the lightning arrestor shall be grounded as follows:

- a. A common ground for both devices is acceptable.
- b. Ground wire shall not be run in the same conduit as fire alarm wire.
- c. An unenclosed number eight (8) copper wire, or equivalent, shall be used to connect the ground terminal of the master box and/or street box to the suitable ground in order to provide mechanical strength.
- d. If enclosed in metal conduit, a number twelve (12) wire may be used

Suitable grounds are:

- a. Underground metallic water piping system.
- b. Ground rod not less than one-half (1/2") inch in diameter and eight (8') feet long driven into permanently wet soil.
- c. The resistance of a ground connection shall not exceed two hundred, fifty (250) OHM's.
- d. Power company neutral conductors are NOT acceptable grounds.

ARTICLE 6 ALARM SYSTEM TESTING AND RESPONSIBILITY

Section 1: **ALARM SYSTEM TESTING:** Prior to connection of the building's fire alarm system to the municipal Fire Alarm circuit, the Fire Alarm System and its components shall undergo a final inspection and be tested, in its entirety, by a Licensed Alarm System Electrician and Vermont State Electrical Inspector. This test shall be conducted in the presence of a member of the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the protected property to completely test the Fire Alarm System once a year. A current State of Vermont Alarm certification test sticker shall be affixed to the main alarm panel as proof of the annual test.

The owner of any protected property connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm System shall notify the Bellows Falls Fire Department before transmission of the alarm or disconnection prior to testing of their system. Failure to do so will result in the owner of the property being charged with a false alarm as provided under Article 10, Section 1 of this ordinance

All master boxes and street boxes shall be tested for operation no less than twice annually by the Bellows Falls Fire Department during regularly scheduled work shifts.

Section 2: **ALARM SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITY:** When a Fire Alarm System is installed in a property a person responsible for the alarm system must be identified and provided to the Fire Department. This responsible party or parties can be the owner of the property or their appointed representative. This responsible party must maintain the Alarm System in designed operable condition and be readily available to address problems and/or malfunctions of the system.

The owner or owner's appointed representative shall be available to reset or zone out the main alarm panel as needed after it has activated.

The Fire Alarm Box will remain the property of the property owner. However the owner agrees to provide the Bellows Falls Fire Department with free and unlimited access to the Fire Alarm Box while it is connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

ARTICLE 7 EXCEPTIONS

Section 1: **EXCEPTIONS:** It is intended that these requirements provide a basis for providing a reliable, cost effective fire alarm protection system. It is expected that requests for clarification or exception to these requirements may be made from time to time. Requests for clarifications and/or exceptions should be made in writing to the:

Bellows Falls Fire Department Fire Alarm Division
170 Rockingham St.
Bellows Falls, VT. 05101.

Every effort will be made by the Fire Department to provide solutions to individual problems. The Bellows Falls Fire Department welcomes any input, which may improve the System's reliability. Such adjustments as may be made to these requirements will be made at the discretion of the Fire Chief or his/her representative with approval of the Village Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 8 ALARM SYSTEM LIABILITY

Section 1: **SYSTEM LIABILITY:** Neither the Bellows Falls Village Corporation, nor any of its employees, will be held liable under any circumstances for the failure of any of the equipment to operate during the transmission of an alarm to the Bellows Falls Fire Department console. It is understood that the Bellows Falls Fire Department will do all that is possible to render trouble-free, reliable service. The Bellows Falls Fire Department shall take every reasonable precaution to ensure that fire alarms received are given appropriate attention and are acted upon as soon as possible. The Bellows Falls Fire Department shall not be liable for any defects in the operation of the fire alarm system, for any failure or neglect to respond upon receipt of an alarm, nor for the failure or neglect of any person in connection with the installation and operation of alarms and systems.

ARTICLE 9 DISCONNECTIONS OF FIRE ALARMS SYSTEMS FROM THE MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT

Section 1: **FIRE ALARM BOXES (Master and Street):** It shall be unlawful for any person or entity, except Bellows Falls Fire Department personnel, to disable or alter the mode of operation of any fire alarm box connected with the Municipal Fire Alarm System. In the event, it becomes necessary for any user of the municipal fire alarm services to gain access to any fire alarm box connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm System in order to alter the mode of operation, or disable any so-connected fire alarm box, they shall immediately contact the Fire Department by phone (463-4343) or make application to the Chief of the Bellows Falls Fire Department or his/her representative before any alterations are made.

Section 2: **DISCONNECT REQUESTS:** The property owner shall provide a signed written request for disconnect before any boxes are disconnected from the fire alarm system. This request must be submitted to the Bellows Falls Fire Department Fire Chief. Any occupancy that is required by code to have a fire alarm system will not be disconnected.

Section 3: **RESETTING ALARM BOXES:** In the event a fire alarm box has been activated or has been disabled for maintenance, testing or any other reason, a Bellows Falls Fire Department representative shall restore the Box to service as soon as possible after maintenance or tests have been completed.

It shall be the Owners or the owner's appointed representative responsibility to notify the Bellows Falls Fire Department immediately prior to alarm system maintenance.

In a situation when a authorized electrical contractor has reset the alarm box after maintenance, a Bellows Falls Fire Department representative will check each box that has been activated or put out of service for any reason to insure it is put back in service properly.

ARTICLE 10 PENALTIES

- Section 1: **PENALTIES:** A violation of this ordinance or any part there of shall be a Civil matter enforced in accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. section 1974a and 1977et seq. A Civil penalty of \$100.00 may be imposed for the initial violation of this civil ordinance. The penalty for the second offense shall be \$300.00, and the penalty for subsequent offenses shall be \$500.00. Each day that the violation continues will constitute a separate violation of this ordinance.
- Section 2: **MINIMUM/MAXIMUM PENALTIES:** Minimum penalty for violations of this ordinance shall be \$100.00 per violation and a maximum penalty will not exceed \$500.00 per violation.

ARTICLE 11 FALSE FIRE ALARMS

- Section 1: **AUTHORITY:** The Bellows Falls Fire Department shall be the only authority to determine if alarms are legitimate, false, or accidental.
- Section 2: **PREVENTION OF FALSE ALARMS, SERVICE CHARGE FEE:** Any owner, lessee or person in control of property having an alarm system on the premises and any user of alarm services or equipment designed and installed with the intent of eliciting an emergency response, shall be assessed a one-hundred (\$100) dollar service charge payable to the Village of Bellows Falls for each false alarm initiating a Fire Department response to the property after three (3) false alarms have been responded to at the property in any 12 month period.

False alarms originated in different buildings on a common fire alarm system shall be charged as subsequent responses. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to immediately correct any and all problems resulting in the activation of false alarms. If the Fire Department finds it necessary to disconnect an alarm device or system due to repeated faulty activations, the owner of the property will be notified and a fire watch may be ordered posted on the premises until such time that the protection provided by the system or device can be fully restored.

Any Service Charge assessment fees can be appealed to the Fire Chief. See Article 11, Section 4 "APPEALS"

- Section 3: **WILLFUL AND MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS AND TAMPERING WITH FACILITIES:**
- A) Anyone who willfully or knowingly activates or aids in activating an alarm with no legitimate purpose or transmits a malicious false alarm or tampers with any alarm facilities may be cited under Vermont Criminal Statutes Title 13 sections 1751, 1752, 1753 or any other applicable statutes.

B) Anyone who willfully or knowingly activates or aids in activating an alarm with no legitimate purpose, or transmits a malicious false alarm or tampers with any alarm facilities, may be cited under Article 10, Section 1 of this ordinance.

Section 4: **APPEALS:** Anyone charged with a false alarm service charge may appeal false alarm service charges in writing to the:

Bellows Falls Fire Chief
170 Rockingham Street
Bellows Falls, VT 05101

within fifteen (15) days after mailing of the notice of the service charge.

The Fire Chief may waive assessment of the service charge when, in his or her judgment, reasonable attempts are being taken to discover and eliminate the cause of the false alarms.

ARTICLE 12 PRIVATE ALARM SYSTEMS.

Section 1: **RECEIVING PRIVATE ALARM SYSTEMS:** The Bellows Falls Fire Department **WILL NOT** receive private alarms system activations directly over phone lines.

These signals must be transmitted to an approved Proprietary, Remote or Central Station answering point and then relayed by phone to Bellows Falls Fire Dispatch from there.

These private alarms systems will follow any and all applicable regulations included in the Fire Alarm Regulations.

ARTICLE 13 KEY VAULT-NONDESTRUCTIVE ENTRY

Section 1: **KEY VAULT-NONDESTRUCTIVE ENTRY:** Any person or entity wishing to connect any alarm system to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit must provide a Key Vault to the Bellows Falls Fire Department for the protected property. The system shall be of a type that is currently in use in the community and approved by the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

This Key Vault system is required for all alarmed and/or sprinklered properties that are connected to the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit. The cost of procurement and installation of this system is the sole responsibility of the property owner or tenant, and shall be installed under the supervision of, and at a location specified by, the Bellows Falls Fire Department.

The Fire Department does not and will not accept custody of any property keys.

Application for a Key Vault entry system is to be made through the Bellows Falls Fire Department. To obtain additional information and application procedures contact the Bellows Falls Fire Department at 463-4343.

ARTICLE 14 APPLICABILITY

This ordinance is adopted by the Bellows Falls Village Corporation Board of Trustees and Village President, and shall apply to properties in the corporate limits of the Village of Bellows Falls, Vermont and all other areas covered by the Municipal Fire Alarm Circuit.

ARTICLE 15 SEVERABILITY

If any part of this ordinance shall be held invalid, such part shall be deemed severable, and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this ordinance.