

Minutes of the Special Review Meeting
Milton Library, 121 Union Street
The Granary at Draper Farm
August 25, 2021 2:00 PM

A meeting of the Special Review Committee continued discussions on the annexation petition from Sand Hill, LLC and Su-Sax Acres, LLC for the large-scale development of The Granary at Draper Farm.

Present at the committee meeting were: Richard Trask, Town of Milton Planning and Zoning Commission Chair; Kristy Rogers, Town of Milton Town Manager; John Collier, Town of Milton Councilman, Lee Revis-Plank, Town of Milton Councilwoman, Greg Wingo, Town of Milton Public Works Supervisor, and Tom Quass, Town of Milton Project Coordinator.

Also present at the meeting was Zac Crouch, Engineer DBF Engineers, Johnny Hopkins, Chief of Milton Fire Department, and Derrick Harvey, Chief of Police for the Town of Milton.

Also present in the meeting room were a contingency of residents that expressed an interest in the project.

Call to order by Mr. Collier at 2:04 PM

The intent of this meeting was to assess the projected requirements of Fire, Police and Emergency Care services necessary to support the proposed community.

Fire and Emergency Services

First on the podium was Mr. Johnny Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins testified that the area covered by the Milton Fire Department was currently 100.25 square miles, of which, the proposed community is within their coverage area. Currently, the Milton Fire Department has 60 – 70 active members, all of which are volunteers.

Mr. Hopkins testified that the size of the proposed community would require a significant increase in fire and emergency calls and more manpower and equipment would be need to cover the proposed community. Mr. Hopkins indicated that this may, over time, require the fire department to move to paid fire firefighters and emergency service personnel.

In addition, more equipment would need to be acquired to support the increase in calls. Additional equipment would be expensive with vehicles costing \$600,000 to \$700,000 per unit with additional special purpose vehicles well over a million dollars. In addition, firefighter gear would cost \$5000 per person, radios at \$5000, and air-safety packs at \$4000.

Mr. Hopkins also indicated that an onsite substation, or one that is in close proximity of the community, possibly on Sand Hill Road, would help in response times for the department. The community has a proposed dedicated area for a substation on site.

Mr. Hopkins testified that the design of the community must be reviewed by the State Fire Marshal and provide street widths that would provide adequate room for large fire and emergency equipment, even when cars are parked on the streets.

Questions from the audience included the use of sprinkler system for residential applications. The Town code provides for sprinkler systems for larger buildings with three or more floors. There is currently no requirement for residential sprinkle system for one- and two-story buildings.

Another question was asked concerning special equipment for unique situations, given the proposal for grain silos and other commercial applications. Mr. Hopkins testified that the fire department currently has specialized equipment and training for rescues in grain silos.

Police and Emergency Response

Next on the agenda was testimony from Mr. Derrick Harvey, Chief of Police for the Town of Milton. Chief Harvey testified that his department would need at least six (6) more officers, with related equipment and training, over time, to support the added coverage of the proposed community. Chief Harvey testified that it would cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 to train and outfit a new officer, in addition to having one car per officer. Chief Harvey testified that it takes approximately five years for a police officer to attain full experience level. Chief Harvey indicated that two (2) to three (3) officers per shift would be adequate coverage for the proposed community.

Chief Harvey also testified the use of CCTV cameras throughout the public areas of the community would go a long way in the police department's ability to assess and respond to emergencies with the community. These CCTV cameras can be monitored from the police station on a 24-hour basis and provide information on the extent of the emergency and how to respond to calls.

Chief Harvey continued his testimony by indicating a speed limit change on Sand Hill Road to 25 mph would go a long way in reducing the occurrence of accidents in the area, considering the added number of vehicles that would be using the road. Chief Harvey also indicated that a traffic light may be apropos for the entrance to the community. To make it even safer, a rerouting of commercial truck traffic to Route 9 from Route 30 would reduce the use of heavy trucks on Sand Hill Road.

The last request from Chief Harvey was to provide adequate parking areas for public venues slated for the community.

Questions from the audience included; does the police and town hall have enough physical space to support the doubling of the size of the Town. Mayor Kanakas, himself

and audience member, indicated that space for police and town hall activities are currently a topic of discussion and will need to be addressed over time.

The next meeting of the Special Review Committee was planned for September 7, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

The Special Review Committee meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Trask at approximately 3:00 PM.

Subsequent to this meeting, the next meeting date was changed by Ms. Kristy Rogers to September 14, 2021 at 10:30 AM in the library meeting rooms. The meeting change will accommodate a representative from Convergence Communities. Agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Town of Milton web site.