

3.10 Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services

The purpose of this section is to discuss the status of existing police, fire and emergency medical services available for the project site. It also discusses the capacity of these resources to provide assistance to the proposed development, and identifies what mitigation measures, if any, are needed to ensure the health and safety of project residents, visitors and personnel, as well as the surrounding community.

3.10.1 Existing Conditions

Police Services

The Town of Amenia, like many rural communities, does not have a local police department. Police emergencies in the Town of Amenia are handled by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the New York State Police.

The Dutchess County Sheriff has jurisdiction over all of Dutchess County. The main office is located at 150 North Hamilton Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. Coverage for the project site and the surrounding area is provided from the Amenia sub-station, located on Route 22 in the Town of Amenia, adjacent to the project site. The sub-station functions as a work station and is not staffed with a 24-hour desk attendant. All calls to the sub-station are answered by the communications staff located at the Poughkeepsie headquarters, who then dispatch personnel working at the sub-station. The sub-station is staffed by nine deputies, one sergeant and two detectives. The Town of Amenia, along with the Town of North East and the Village of Millerton, is part of the Zone 6 patrol area, which is patrolled 24 hours a day by a deputy working an eight-hour shift.³¹

The response time to the project site will vary depending on whether the officer responding is traveling from the sub-station or some more distant location within patrol Zone 6. Overall, the average response time should be between five and 10 minutes.³²

In May 2006, the Sheriff's Office's established the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) Police Patrol Unit. Prior to the establishment of this unit, the Sheriff's Office owned two ATVs and eight to 10 deputies were trained to use the ATVs for patrol purposes when conditions warranted. The ATV Police Patrol Unit added two new ATVs and two new deputy positions to the force to allow two of the existing deputies to patrol using the ATVs on a full time basis between March and November.

³¹ Correspondence with Sheriff Adrian H. Anderson, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, September 27, 2005.

³² Based on a phone conversation with Sergeant Robert Monaco on January 19, 2006 and May 24, 2006.

Several improvements are planned for the Sheriff's Office including, but not limited to, an upgrade of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to a Windows based system, installation of an automated ticketing and motor vehicle accident reporting system, and the creation and expansion of the Emergencies Services Unit (ESU), which receives specialized training to perform duties such as responding to barricaded and armed subjects. In the future, the office is also hoping to obtain a new vehicle for the ESU team.

The New York State Police also provides police service to the Town of Amenia with 24-hour patrols divided into varying shifts, including:

- 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM,
- 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM,
- 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM,
- 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM,
- 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, and
- 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM.

State Police operations for the Town of Amenia are coordinated through the Troop K Headquarters at 2541 US Route 44 in Salt Point, New York. Due to security measures, the NYS Police will not release information regarding staffing levels, whether there are any existing deficiencies in staffing or facilities, or whether there are any plans for expansions or improvements.³³

Fire and Emergency Medical Services

The Amenia Fire Company, located at 35 Mechanic Street in the Town of Amenia, provides fire, basic life support (BLS) and ambulance service to the Town. In addition, the services of the Dutchess County Paramedics are utilized to assist with calls for advanced life support.

The Amenia Fire Company is composed entirely of volunteers, including 40 active firefighters and 7 emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Fire Officers include one Chief, two Assistant Chiefs, one Captain, three Lieutenants, and two Safety Officers. Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Officers include one Captain and two Lieutenants.³⁴

The Fire Company has the following equipment:

- Engine 3115: 1000 gallon tank, 1250 gallons per minute (gpm) pump

³³ Correspondence with Laurie M. Wagner, Captain, New York State Police, November 7, 2005.

³⁴ Discussions with Chief Shawn Howard, Amenia Fire Department, December 16, 2005 and March 1, 2006.

- Engine 3116: 1500 gallon tank, 1500 gpm pump
- Engine 3117: 500 gallon tank, 1750 gpm pump
- Rescue 3152: Medium duty rescue truck, 4-wheel drive
- Utility 3162: 200 gallon tank, pressure pump, 4-wheel drive
- Utility 3163: 225 gallon tank, pressure pump, 4-wheel drive, hand tools
- Ambulance 3171: Basic life support (BLS) ambulance

The Fire Company has future plans to purchase an Engine truck with the same specifications as Engine 3115 and the addition of a compressed air foam system which reduces water use.

The Fire Company's average response time within the Town is five to seven minutes. In the event that the department receives an emergency call that requires a larger response, the Dover, Sharon and Wassaic fire departments will provide support. Water for the fire suppression system will be provided by the onsite water supply system.

Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP), a stand alone Advanced Life Support first-response service, provides service to Amenia. The services provided include basic life support, advance life support, inter-facility transportation, and ambulette transportation. NDP provides service to over 30 towns and communities in Dutchess and Columbia County, New York and Litchfield County, Connecticut as well as many nursing homes and assisted living facilities. While the headquarters are located in Rhinebeck, NY, the district Number Two station, located at 5609 Route 22 in Millerton, NY provides service to Amenia. NDP maintains a staff of over 100 employees and a vehicle fleet which consists of three fly cars, 13 ambulances, and six ambulettes.³⁵

3.10.2 Potential Impacts

The Silo Ridge development includes development of a resort hotel, up to 369 residential units consisting of single-family homes and townhomes, and the upgrading and improvement of the existing golf course and clubhouse. The residential portion of the project is similar to surrounding uses and unlikely to generate unique or unusual public safety considerations. The golf course, restaurant and other commercial uses are similar to the existing country club and unlikely to introduce any new safety concerns. The resort portion of the proposed project may introduce new safety concerns that may need to be addressed.

³⁵ <http://www.ndpems.com/Index.html> (accessed April 12, 2006).

Under the unlikely worst-case scenario where all residential units are occupied on a year-round basis, the proposed project is projected to increase the existing population of the Town of Amenia by 1,079 people. Therefore, demand for emergency services will likely increase due to the increased population. An increase in calls is anticipated by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which may necessitate additional personnel at the deputy level to accommodate the increase; however, the Sheriff's Office does not foresee any negative impacts to their operations as a result of the proposed development. While the Sheriff's Office will respond to all 911 emergency calls, an agreement with the Town will be required to allow the Sheriff's Office to enforce local community laws, such as traffic, parking and pedestrian safety laws. The New York State Police did not express concern regarding the ability of the existing staff and equipment to address increased demand from the project (see Appendix 9.1 for a copy of relevant correspondence).

The Amenia Fire Company No. 1 will provide fire protection to the new development. The primary water source for fire fighting purposes will be provided by fire hydrants located at each street intersection and at intermediate points along each roadway within the proposed development. Fire hydrants will generally be spaced every 300 feet, depending on the area being served.

Community water supply systems are not required to be designed to meet fire flow requirements. However, the proposed water distribution and storage facilities for the project will be robust enough in many areas to provide adequate fire flows as recommended by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

During the design phase of the project, a complete hydraulic model of the distribution system will be developed and will provide reviewing agencies with calculations that predict flow at each hydrant. After the system is placed in operation, flow tests could be performed on selected hydrants to establish the rated capacity of hydrants in various areas of the distribution system. Tested hydrants will be color coded as to their flow capacity in accordance with the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) color coding requirements.

In accordance with the Building Code of New York State, buildings including hotel, commercial retail space, offices, banquet and spa facilities requiring fire protection and suppression systems will include all related elements in conformance with Chapter 9 "*Fire Protection Systems*" and related provisions of the Fire Code of New York State. The proposed hotel complex will be designed and built with its own separate fire water storage facility to provide the needed fire flow and duration according to the NYS Building Code, Fire Code and applicable NFPA Standards and ISO requirements.

Based on discussions with local police, fire, and EMS officials servicing the proposed Silo Ridge development, safety designs and features were incorporated into the site

design and layout and meet with the approval of the local emergency response officials. For the proposed hotel, fire hose hook-ups that connect directly to the sprinkler system will be provided at several locations. Fire truck access will be provided on each side of the proposed hotel/conference center. In addition, on the ground floor, in the front and rear of the building, an external siamese fire connection or standpipe with two connections side-by-side will be provided to help feed water to and pressurize the building's sprinkler system or fire suppression system.

In order to facilitate movement of emergency vehicles, all roads within the proposed Silo Ridge development will be constructed according to design standards in the Amenia Town Code and will be able to accommodate two 8.5-foot wide fire trucks side-by-side and, while the number of cul-de-sacs will be minimized to the maximum extent practical, any necessary cul-de-sacs will be designed to allow for adequate fire truck circulation.

Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) does not foresee any issues providing service to the proposed development and will adjust their staffing according to the anticipated demands.³⁶

3.10.3 Proposed Mitigation Measures

The proposed project will generate property tax revenue to the Fire District that can be used for such things as increasing staffing levels, purchasing equipment, or improving training opportunities. As described in Section 3.17, "Fiscal Resources," the project will increase the revenue of Amenia Fire District by approximately \$119,000. The Town of Amenia will also receive an increase in property tax revenues, some of which would be used to support the other community services in Town that are funded by tax revenue, such as police protection. The Town will receive a net surplus of approximately \$168,500 above the cost of providing services to the proposed project.

Based on discussions with local police, fire, and EMS officials servicing the proposed Silo Ridge development, certain designs will be incorporated into the proposed development. The project site, based on discussions with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, includes exterior lighting that will be used throughout the Silo Ridge development to enhance visibility at pedestrian and vehicular intersections and to provide security in public spaces. It was also determined that continuous street lighting and blue-light emergency phones were not necessary.

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office anticipates an increase in calls that could be handled with an increase of four new deputy positions.³⁷ As mentioned above,

³⁶ Discussions with Northern Dutchess Paramedics, December 13, 2005.

additional tax revenue generated by the proposed project will help offset the cost of adding new deputy positions.

Based on discussions with the Amenia Fire Department, the proposed development will include roads that are sufficiently wide enough to accommodate two 8.5-foot-wide fire trucks side-by-side and tax dollars generated by the proposed project and distributed to the Amenia Fire District will enable the Fire Department to purchase a new fire truck or other needed equipment.³⁸

As mentioned above, Northern Dutchess Paramedics does not object to the proposed project or foresee any issues providing service to the proposed development, as NDP will adjust their staffing according to the anticipated demands. As requested by NDP, one elevator within the hotel/conference center will be sized to accommodate a stretcher configured in a full horizontal position.³⁹

No further mitigation measures are proposed.

³⁷ Discussions with Sergeant Robert Monaco, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, December 16, 2005.

³⁸ Discussions with Chief Shawn Howard, Amenia Fire Department, December 16, 2005 and March 1, 2006.

³⁹ Discussions with Dutchess County Paramedics, December 13, 2005.