



Sundridge-Strong Fire Department

Date: August 4, 2020

From: Andrew Torrance, Fire Chief, Sundridge-Strong Fire Department

Subject: SSFD Comments – Proposed NOAH Development

The below comments and considerations are revised from a previous memo (June 18, 2020) from the SSFD regarding the proposed NOAH development. The original questions and comments arose from a planning meeting and since this meeting additional information has been provided to the SSFD from the architect working for the developer.

As previously stated, the fire department's responsibility is to protect/save lives, protect property, and protect the environment. The below comments are focused on these points.

Comments

1. Proposed Fire Protection Systems – The information received from the architect states that the building will meet the 2012 Building Code with applicable amendments. Additionally, the building will be protected by a sprinkler system (designed/installed to NFPA 13R 2010 as required by the Ontario Building Code). When appropriate, the fire department would like to review the actual sprinkler system specifications including the volume of water stored for use by the system.

2. The Village of Sundridge does not have a municipal water supply or fire hydrants. The proposed development will require on site water storage for firefighting purposes. At present, the proposed amount of water is 3000 US gallons with a dry hydrant fire department connection which would be positioned in an appropriate location. When appropriate, the fire department would like to review the proposed water volume and the plans and specifications for storage and dry hydrant connection.

3. The proposed affordable housing complex is 3 storeys, which is permitted under the Village of Sundridge Zoning By-Law. The fire department and its governing councils are obligated to structure the fire department to respond to the present needs and circumstances of the community as highlighted by risk assessments. At present, there are no 3 storey residential structures in the Village of Sundridge. This changes our present needs and circumstances and creates new risk to residents and firefighters and therefore this will have an impact on the fire department in the following ways:

- Specific equipment such as 3 stage ladders will need to be purchased
- Apparatus will need to be retro fitted to accommodate new equipment
- Specific training time will be required to ensure appropriate emergency response and action upon arrival to this building – this includes elevator rescue, evacuations of residents during emergencies, knowledge of fire protection systems, etc.



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- Many residents in one building will create a unique situation in the Village of Sundridge. The mandate of the fire department is to prevent fires and fire related emergencies through public education and inspection enforcement. A specific fire prevention program will need to be developed to include a detailed fire safety plan, a pre-incident plan, annual inspection, and enforcement, and a specific public education plan must be prepared and maintained

4. Emergency call outs are expected to increase because of new developments. This is a considerable size residential development which will most certainly increase the overall number of emergency call outs for the SSFD. The SSFD will need to prepare for the increase in emergency calls by considering the following topics:

- Budget Impacts – cost of response, training, fire prevention will increase annual fire department budget
- Training – create a plan and find time to train firefighters to appropriate standards of a new building with new risks – increases the potential for interior offensive fire attack and rescue
- Fire Prevention - develop a specific fire prevention program which includes ongoing public education, inspection & enforcement of the Fire Code

The Sundridge-Strong Fire Department appreciates the opportunity to provide our perspective regarding the proposed affordable housing complex and the impact it will have on local fire services. We hope to have continued dialogue with all parties involved during the development process.

Sincerely,

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