



HINESBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Nicholas Baker
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MEMORANDUM

Date: 02/28/2022

To: Hinesburg DRB

CC: Ben Avery, BlackRock Construction

Topic: Current Position Relating to an Aerial Fire Apparatus

At the request of Mr. Avery of BlackRock Construction, the Hinesburg Fire Department (HFD) would like to offer a formal comment on the current and future need of an aerial fire apparatus, or 'ladder truck'.

Currently HFD responds to an average of 450 emergency calls annually, with a recent increase in demand putting our department on pace for 600 emergency calls annually. HFD staffs two full time firefighter/EMTs and forty paid on call firefighter/EMTs.

Within our first response district there exists approximately 60 structures which HFD cannot reach the roof of or potentially effect rescue from. We consider these structures to be 'target hazards', identified structures or facilities that present unique challenges for emergency response; target hazards exist within every town and city. If a significant incident occurs, like a structure fire, we rely heavily on mutual aid departments to assist us in aspects including but not limited to fire suppression, water supply, ventilation, salvage, overhaul and rescue. Currently our mutual aid departments of Williston, Shelburne, South Burlington, Burlington and Essex Junction all operate aerial apparatus and support HFD in the event of a significant incident.

Every fire department locally is ultimately limited by manpower, and Hinesburg is no exception. With or without an existing aerial apparatus, HFD will continue to utilize our mutual aid departments due to manpower demands of an incident such as a structure fire. It is our opinion that at this time the construction of the proposed facility at Haystack will not negatively impact the Hinesburg Fire Department's ability to appropriately respond to and mitigate emergencies. HFD will continue to utilize our mutual aid partners for resources such as aerial fire apparatus until such a time as demand for service requires an in-town aerial fire apparatus.

Nicholas Baker, Fire Chief