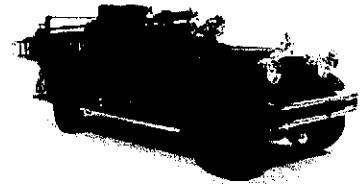
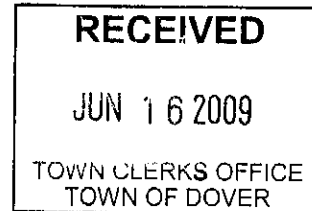


J. H. Ketcham Hose Company Inc.
P.O. Box 706
Dover Plains, New York 12522



June 15, 2009

Town of Dover
126 East Duncan Hill Road
Dover Plains, NY 12522



Honorable Supervisor Courtien:

I would like to clarify some facts concerning the comments noted in the Knolls of Dover DEIS concerning requests for information from the fire department. The J. H. Ketcham Hose Company has attended and responded to all public requests for comments concerning this project. We have submitted written responses to the applicant on both May of 2006 and May of 2008.

I have had a chance to review the DEIS and evaluate the mitigation proposed by the developer. As stated in the DEIS, there is a potential for a 43% increase in population from this project. This has the potential to increase the call volume for the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service by the same amount. In the fire departments previous responses, we indicated the anticipated additional call volume could put stress on the current department staffing and possibly force the change from an all volunteer fire department to a combination volunteer/paid department. This increase in call volume could also change the emergency medical service from a paid 12 hour/day service to a paid 24 hour/day service.

In previous responses we outline the potential impact of this project to the fire and EMS services in the Town of Dover. The costs for these increases are outlined below:

The EMS service provided by NDP from 5am to 5pm currently cost the Town of Dover \$120,000/year. We can assume 24 hour coverage would increase this cost to \$240,000/year.

The additional call volume has the potential to shorten the life span of our current apparatus. Currently the vehicle replacement fund is \$120,000/year. Taking into account the addition call volume and adjusting our current replace schedule, this fund would need to be increased to a minimum of \$210,000/ year.

Fuel costs for the additional call volume could increase from \$20,000 (2008 usage) to potentially \$29,000.

If the applicant's prediction of the potential for new members from the projects residential development is correct, the fire department will then need to train and

outfit these members with appropriate firefighter equipment. The cost of this equipment is currently \$2,500 to \$3,000/per person.

If this devolvement does not result in a significant increase in membership, the need for career firefighters may become necessary. Initial staffing of three firefighters, ten hours per day, seven days a week, would cost approximately \$600,000 (\$100,000/firefighter including salary, benefits, specialized gear and training). In addition to the firefighting staff, an administrative position may have to be created to oversee the Career Fire and EMS staffing.

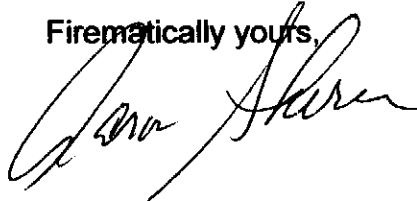
In addition, the current firehouses are not configured for career services. The firehouses would have to be upgraded to the standards of career departments including bunk housing, day rooms, exhaust systems and showers.

The DEIS suggests that these concerns could be mitigated by the additional tax revenue generated by the project and the potential for new members from the projects residential development. Additional tax revenue without significant increase in membership, physically capable to perform the demanding task of firefighting, will not mitigate this potential impact on the emergency services in the Town of Dover.

The applicant states in the DEIS, *"Without the Project, continued growth in the Town in the future would be anticipated to increase service call levels for the emergency service providers."* The Fire Department agrees with this finding but must add to it. The growth of the Town of Dover independent of this project has the potential to cause similar impacts as outlined above; with the addition of this project these impacts are almost inevitable. The Town Board and citizens of this town must be prepared to bear the burden of supporting a full time EMS service and/or a part-time paid fire department in the near future.

The J. H. Ketcham Hose Company has served the Town of Dover for over 100 years and would like to continue our volunteer service to the town. Therefore we would welcome the opportunity to work with the Town Board and developer to address these concerns with minimal impact to the taxpayers of the Town of Dover.

Firematically yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Sherer', written over the typed name below.

Aaron Sherer
Chief, Dover Fire Department