From:	Dana McCarthy
To:	Natalie Benner
Subject:	FW: Public Comment for the Village Board meeting scheduled for August 22, 2023
Date:	Tuesday, August 22, 2023 7:03:16 PM

From: Harish Raman <raman.harish@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 5:05 PM

To: Dana McCarthy <dmccarthy@longgroveil.gov>

Subject: Public Comment for the Village Board meeting scheduled for August 22, 2023

Harish Raman & Aparna Valluru
5136 Bridlewood Ct,
Long Grove, IL 60047

August 22, 2023

Subject: Request to reject the Special Use Permit for the New Fire Station on Aptakisic Road
Dear Members of the Long Grove Board of Trustees,
On behalf of myself and a number of residents, I am writing to express our strong reservation and request to reject the special use permit for the new fire station on Aptakisic Road. While we wholeheartedly support the modernization and enhancement of fire and EMS services for our village, we believe that the Long Grove Fire Protection District (LGFPD) has not presented an accurate and comprehensive depiction of the overall benefits to the community and the negative impact to the surrounding properties. The proposal, as it stands, does not meet the criteria for a special use permit as outlined in the village ordinances, nor does it provide a net benefit for the majority of Long Grove residents. Our concerns are outlined as follows:

1. **Inaccurate Presentation of Response Times**: LGFPD's assessment of response times is based on distances and fails to consider traffic, population, or the current distribution of response locations. A nuanced examination that includes these factors may indicate a decrease, rather than an increase, in response times for the majority of emergency calls.

2. **Lack of Detailed Architectural Plans**: The ground plan provided is very basic. It does not include considerations for topographic surveys, nor does it illustrate the proposed elevations. It is important in consideration of the SUP to understand how the structure affects views from the street and neighboring homes behind the location, which are currently overlooking preserved wetlands and prairie.

3. **Unjustified Building Size**: The proposed building and parking lot is significantly larger than the current station, yet there are no plans to increase personnel or equipment. Population increases were cited 1980 to present but it's unlikely this growth would continue at the same rates. Further justification for this increase in size is needed.

4. **Noise Concerns and Property Value Impact:** The current station is located on a quiet, lightly trafficked road where sirens are likely not needed as frequently. In stark contrast, the new location on Aptakisic Road will be subject to heavy traffic, particularly in the stop-and-go traffic on Route 83. This would require the use of 123db sirens on the majority of calls to navigate this busy intersection. Given that Aptakisic is on a ridge, the sound carries significantly, similar to the clearly audible 80db construction equipment currently employed for road work which is clearly audible in Bridlewood. Considering a study by Nelson (1982), an increase of 30db of noise in the surrounding neighborhoods could result in a 12% reduction in property values. The noise level from these sirens is likely to be a persistent issue for residents, affecting not only the quality of life but property values as well. No amount of landscaping around the station can mitigate the sirens on the road. At a minimum, I suggest the Village conducts a simple test to determine the audibility of sirens at this location to adjacent properties before a Special Use Permit (SUP) is issued.

5. **Lack of Coordination with Neighboring Districts**: The coordination with neighboring Buffalo Grove remains unclear, especially considering the large increase in medium-density housing being constructed along Buffalo Grove road. Will LGFPD be servicing more Buffalo Grove calls due to proximity and will that affect the availability of personnel and equipment for Long Grove residents? Conversely will Buffalo Grove build a new fire station on it's NW border which would negate benefits to Long Grove's proposed location?
6. **Absence of Financial Details**: The financial aspects of the project are vague. LGFPD's assertion that successful completion of the fires station hinges on the sale of a $1MM building when the LGFPD has been awarded a $16.5MM bond referendum raises serious concerns. Detailed financial projections for construction and the ongoing costs and maintenance of a larger facility are needed.
7. **Non-Disclosure of Alternative Sites**: LGFPD's refusal to disclose alternative sites, locations, and criteria for exclusion demands more transparency. Providing a summary of property options and reasons for favoring Aptakisic Road is a reasonable request in consideration of a special use permit.

It is vital that LGFPD provides greater transparency and more detailed planning for its proposed improvements before granting a special use permit for the property at Aptakisic Road. While we are in full support of upgrading LGFPD facilities and equipment, we are simply opposed to this particular location. We urge the Board to carefully consider these concerns and take appropriate actions to ensure that the interests of the Long Grove community are protected.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the board's response addressing our concerns at that time.

Regards

Aparna & Harish