

Q. If the dry hydrant was installed would it be used solely for the HOA community or would it be used for any fire in the immediate area?

A.

- It will be open for any fire suppression activity in the area. We can have understanding that its only to be used if a fire is large enough and requires large amounts of water for an extended fire suppression situation. But to say it can only be used by HOA or the subdivision we can't do that, once you give permission to the FD to use it as a water point you are allowing them to use the water point as necessary for water.

Q. What are all the estimated costs and actions required to install the dry hydrant?

A.

- The water point 1208 which is on the South River rd. side of the pond. It will need some dirt or gravel hauled in to get a solid base to support the weight of the fire trucks, The steep incline and the sandy area will make it almost impossible for a truck to get to the pond to setup, you would also need to dig the pond out around that end so it will be deep enough to hold enough water to be able to use it. Over time sand getting carried down into the water and grass decay has caused the depth of water to get shallow. At the time I looked at the water point the water was only 10-18 inch deep. We need 36" of water to draft from so we don't stir up dirt and grim off the bottom that can damage or break our pumps on the trucks.
- The dam end of the pond could be an alternative location to install the dry hydrant, may not even need that if we can work it out with property owner. The driveway at Faircloth bridge rd. that is next to the dam and behind-beside the yellow house, its flatter and maybe easily accessible. You may not have to spend as much building up a roadbed and you wouldn't need to dig/clean pond as it's deep enough at that end of the dam.
- The Materials to build up and cleanout at pond, pipe, accessories, and labor needed to install the dry hydrant can cost upwards of \$7,000. The FD can assist with the installation, which can help bring labor costs down.

Q. What is the estimated cost to use the park area to either install a wet hydrant or any other means of firefighting water source? We have an existing well with a pump in the park area, what options do we have to use that existing resource to help meet the intent of having a water source sufficient to fight a fire in the entire neighborhood?

A.

- We wouldn't be able to put in a actual fire hydrant off that pump cause it doesn't flow enough water to support a hydrant. You can install large water tanks to store water in so if there is a fire it can help provide additional water.
- The state only recognizes a storage tank of 30,000 gallons of water or more for the FD to get credit for it as a water point. You don't necessarily have to do that, but it should be a goal to achieve in the future to have your maximum benefit using it. These sizes tanks vary in price (EX. one galvanized water tank that holds 30,000 gallons is \$40,000) that's the most expensive single tank I could find. You could do single tanks and add them up over time till you reach 30,000. If you don't want to get the credit at the state, you could get by with a minimum tank size of 8-10,000 gallons.

- If you install a water tank in the park area, we could establish a restrictive agreement on it cause the HOA is paying to keep the tanks filled with water.

Q. Are there any other options available for the HOA to install or make available to provide that resource to the entire neighborhood?

A.

- The only other option is to go to the county commissioners meeting and push them to get county water lines ran to Faircloth bridge road. They will not go off the state-maintained road, the subdivision will have to pay to run the lines from Faircloth bridge rd. throughout the subdivision.
- You can also talk to the town of Autryville and see if they would let you be annexed to the town, and they could get you water ran to your subdivision from town. Town water stops at hunter's view Ln. and minnie hall rd. intersection. The closet water line that the county maintains is at maxwell rd. and Halltown rd. intersection
- There are also special attachments that the FD can use that will help to draft out the river, water point 1208 and other areas that can be difficult to access on a fire truck. If the HOA doesn't want to spend money on the pond or the water tank at this time, the HOA or members of the subdivision could buy the equipment for the FD and receive a charitable donation that can be written off on their taxes. (turbo draft eductor) This piece of equipment is around \$5,000.

Q. Why isn't the river a viable option?

A.

- The river can be used and is a great water source of never-ending water. The issues we can run into at the river are the height of the water level to the bridge, the pumps on a fire truck can lift water vertically roughly 30 feet. If the river happens to be low during a dry summer the river can be to low for us to use. If the water high, it is moves so quickly that is pushes or pulls the hose in the water that could put more stress on the pump's connections. It doesn't take much for air to get introduced into the pump on the truck and it loses the water supply from the river, and this could cause time in an emergency to trouble shoot or reset. We went out one day in November to test the river with the new bridge repairs and with the higher concrete barrier, we did get it pull a draft from that height, but other trucks or older trucks may not be able to do it. That may be a small issue we could work around in an emergency.

Q. Since this is a public service why is the cost to install these options up to the HOA to foot the bill?

A.

- There are other water sources in the fire district that the fire department can use. If the HOA wants to improve their subdivision, they can improve the water points they have in their subdivision. The FD can assist the HOA with upkeep once new and or improvements are made.
- We have multiple stations from both Cumberland and Sampson Counties responding with 1,000-3,000-gallon capacity tanker trucks to meet the fire load of the houses in the area.

- Also, by putting this in you can help the FD be better prepared for that worst case scenario fire. It also helps up at the state level that could bring our rating down, a lower rating means your insurance premiums can go down saving you and all your neighbors money for many years.

Follow up questions

Q. It sounds like any use of the pond, be it from the South River Road side or Faircloth Bridge side, will require permission of one of those lot owners to upgrade the access. Essentially this will limit what the property owner could do, on the improved area in the future ,so as not to interfere with those improvements.

- A.** yes any work done on someone property would need to get their permission to do the improvements. We can work with the property owner to see what would be best to make improvements without interfering with plans they may have in the future. This would be a extensive process and multiple conversations between the property owners the FD and HOA to make sure all parties get the best results out of the project. #2 below can also help keep the improvements to the property to a minimum.

Q. I am confused about the Chief's comments about the use of river water.

There are also special attachments that the FD can use that will help to draft out the river, water point

Does this mean that if they had this Special piece of Equipment the River would then become a viable option?

- A.** There are companies that make bridge attachments to help FDs setup that as a water point simpler and faster. I think I also put in the previous letter a piece of equipment that could help get the water from the pond and the bridge. This piece would stay on a fire truck, and it can help draw water from water source without out having to park the fire truck so close to the pond or on the bridge if the water level is to low to draw the water up to top of bridge.

Q. Based on his last comments, it sounds like he feels that there are currently adequate assets in the area to handle fires in the community.

- A.** There are other water points close the subdivision that can be used without have to do any of these issues, we would just have to call more fire departments and have them respond from greater distances to assist. If we can make some of the improvements it will benefit everyone in the area to be able to get water faster. As I said before the more water points the FD has the better to help with the FD rating through the state and could lower everyone in the fire districts homeowner's insurance.