

### **3.10 Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Court Services**

#### **3.10.1 Existing Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Court Services**

##### ***Police Services***

The Legacy Ridge property site is located in the Town of Woodbury which is patrolled by the Woodbury Police Department. The Woodbury Police Department covers the Town of Woodbury and can call in other Departments or the New York State Troopers as necessary. There are 22 full time police officers and 1 part time officer. The current Woodbury Police Department staffing is 2.2 police officers per 1,000 residents. On average the Woodbury area is patrolled by 15 full time and 1 part time patrol officers. The Department is supported by 4 full time police dispatchers, who are on call 24 hours per day.

The Legacy Ridge Development, located on the south side of Trout Brook Road, would be provided with emergency services from the Town of Woodbury. The Woodbury Police Department is located at 386 Route 32 in Central Valley which is less than 5 miles from Trout Brook Road and can access the development via Route 32 or Smith Clove Road.

Calls for service to the Woodbury Police Department for calendar year 2004 totaled 13,719.<sup>51</sup> These calls resulted in a blotter entry and were for several emergency Departments such as Police, Fire, Ambulance, Highway and Water Department. The ambulance department received approximately 600 of the calls for service.<sup>52</sup> Therefore the emergency calls for the Police, Fire and other Departments without the ambulance calls were 13,119 or 1.3 calls per resident. The response time for emergency calls into the Woodbury Police Department are well under 5 minutes according to Chief of Police Robert Kwiatkowski<sup>53</sup> and well under 10 minutes for non-emergency calls.

##### ***Fire Services***

The Woodbury Fire District has two stations that would serve the Legacy Ridge development. The Central Valley station is located at Smith Clove Road in Central Valley (approximately 5 miles from the project site) and the Highland Mills station is on Route 32 in Highland Mills (less than 4 miles from the project site). Both stations would be able to provide the necessary fire fighting equipment by using either Route 32 or Smith Clove Road.

The Woodbury Fire District is staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week by volunteers. The Woodbury Fire District maintains three Pump trucks, one "squirt" ladder truck, one rescue truck, one tanker truck and one brush truck. The Fire Department has to date not supplied response times. The existing Summit/Overlook and Skyline water systems are capable of providing adequate service under normal operating conditions; however, under

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<sup>51</sup> Personal communication between Sgt. Friedman of Woodbury Police Department and Barbara Gerlach of LMS Engineers LLP on March 29, 2005.

<sup>52</sup> Personal communication between Mike Geary of the Woodbury Ambulance Department and Barbara Gerlach of LMS Engineers LLP on March 30, 2005.

<sup>53</sup> Personal communication between Woodbury Chief of Police, Robert Kwiatkowski and Barbara Gerlach of LMS Engineers LLP on June 3, 2005.

emergency conditions (i.e. fire event, water main break) there is cause for concern. The Town Engineer has reported that the upper portion of the Skyline Drive system is not provided with adequate fire flow capacity by the Birchwood Pump Station and the 100,000 gallon subsurface reservoir located near the Summit Drive/Highland Drive intersection. Additionally, the Valley Forge residential community would lose water service if a water main break occurred along Smith Clove Road.

Legacy Ridge requires a total of 120,000 gallons of fire flow storage based upon ISO Requirements and 140,000 gallons for average consumptive use for a total of 260,000 gallons of storage required. Legacy Ridge provides over 500,000 gallons of storage, of which 240,000 gallons is available for use by the existing water system.

A portion of Town's commercial and industrial users located south of Route 6 and the Thruway access) is not supplied by the Town of Woodbury's water distribution system. The Village of Harriman is contracted to provide water to these users.

### ***Emergency Medical Services***

The Woodbury Community Ambulance Department located on Route 32 in Central Valley, The Woodbury Community Ambulance Department is located next door to the Woodbury Police Department on Route 32 (less than 5 miles from the project area) and has the same accessibility as the Woodbury Police Department and provides emergency transportation for people taken suddenly ill or injured in the Town of Woodbury to the nearest emergency room - usually Arden Hill or Cornwall Hospital.

The Woodbury Community Ambulance Department is staffed entirely by 21 volunteer EMT's who are assisted by First-Aiders and Drivers. The Woodbury Community Ambulance Department is certified by the New York State Department of Health as a 'Basic Life Support' ambulance service. One of the requirements of certification is that a state-certified Emergency Medical Technician be on each ambulance call. The Ambulance Department has to date not supplied response times.

### ***Court Services***

The Town of Woodbury Justice Court handles all traffic tickets, small claims, criminal offenses, and civil cases within the town limits. Both Town Justices are elected officials, each serving a four year term. Judge Hasin holds court every Wednesday evening beginning at 7:00PM, except for the fourth Wednesday of each month. Judge Levinson holds court every Tuesday evening beginning at 6:00PM. Court clerks are available both in person and by telephone during regular working hours. Small claim court services are available to defendants residing in or transacting business in the Town of Woodbury.

## **3.10.2 Potential Impact to Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Court Services**

### ***Police Services***

In order to maintain the same ratio of Police Officers to residents (2.2 per 1,000) the Woodbury Police Department would require additional staffing and vehicles in order to provide its current level of service within the Town after development of the Legacy Ridge site. However, the proposed (preferred) plan places lesser demands on these services than a conventional subdivision with public roads. The Woodbury Police Department would not

be required to provide patrols to construction sites or enforce traffic regulations on the private roads within the gated community.<sup>54</sup>

The current staffing of 22 full time police officers allows for 2.2 police officers per 1,000 residents. The Town of Woodbury population is currently estimated at approximately 10,000 people.<sup>55</sup> According to Police Chief Kwiatkowski, the average number of police officers in New York State is 3 per 1,000 residents.<sup>56</sup> Upon completion and full occupancy, scheduled for 2011, the Legacy Ridge project is estimated to have 1,166 new residents which would require additional 2 to 3 police officers and an additional vehicle in order to maintain the current police officer to resident ratio. As discussed below, however, it is not anticipated that the proposed development will require the same number of police staff.

The HOA will provide traffic enforcement policies for traffic control and emergency access as outlined in Section 2.3.4 above. The Homeowners Board of Directors will be responsible for establishing the “Rules of the Road” for the project and then internally monitoring traffic control including speed limit compliance, parking and snow removal to facilitate emergency services. However, Police Department would be given access to the site at all times, by remote control access capabilities to provide such services as the police are authorized to provide to private property when such services are required to protect the public health, safety and welfare

In an emergency, or in a situation where the main access is closed due to roadway or utility work, the security staff will be charged with redirecting traffic in a safe and secure manner. The steps involved include:

- Notification to emergency responders of road closures.
- Placement of signage at both sides of the road closure to redirect traffic to secondary access points.
- Staffing the secondary access point to monitor visitor or delivery access.
- If necessary, opening the emergency access drive onto Trout Brook Road for full-time access during the road closure.

The Legacy Ridge main gate will be fitted with a security gate that will be staffed 24 hours seven days a week. The HOA staff will not have “police” powers, but will coordinate with the local police as necessary when public health, safety or welfare is at risk.

The Legacy Ridge Homeowner’s Association will provide a traffic enforcement system to maintain access for police vehicles. The Woodbury Police Department would be given access to the site at all times, by remote control access capabilities. The Woodbury Police Department currently uses remote control access at the Woodbury Common site, and it is proposed that similar access will be developed within the Legacy Ridge site. Individual home alarms would be responded to as is provided to private property by the Woodbury Police Department or a security company with which a homeowner may have contracted.

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<sup>54</sup> Personal communication between Lt. Arthur Abbott of Woodbury Police Department and Barbara Gerlach of LMS Engineers, LLP on March 8, 2005.

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.ci.woodbury.ny.us/townhistory.html>.

<sup>56</sup> Letter from Chief Kwiatkowski to Woodbury town Board January 21, 2005.

In the case of an emergency on private property, to the extent allowed by law, the Woodbury Police Department would respond. The main and secondary access points to the development will be gated and located on Trout Brook Road. A separate ungated access will be provided off Smith Clove Road to serve 17 homes which will be part of the Legacy Ridge project, though not included in the gated community. Two emergency gated access points will be provided: one onto Smith Clove Road south of Trout Brook Road and one onto Skyline Drive to the south of the development. The Skyline Drive emergency access point will provide access for emergency responders for both the Skyline Drive community (which has only one way in and out) and a fourth point of access for the Legacy Ridge community.

Trout Brook Road is a public road that is maintained by the Orange County Highway Department. The road system within Legacy Ridge would be private and maintained by the Homeowner's Association. The roads and cul-de-sacs will be built in such a manner so as to provide sufficient access for emergency vehicles (See Figure 18, Road Cross Section and Mountable Curb Details and Figure 19, Typical Rotary and Street Design). Street lighting, street name signage and house number display will be provided in order to facilitate identification by emergency services (See Figures 16 and 17). The roads will be designed and signed to a 25 mph standard.

All access points will be plowed and maintained for access by emergency responders at all times. Road radii and layout have been developed consistent with the Project Sponsor's understanding of the emergency providers needs, based on criteria developed during the WP3 design process.

It is anticipated that the development of this project would call for police services of the same general type as other residential development in the surrounding area, except as to Vehicle and Traffic Violations, and except as specifically allowed by law. Thus, it is expected that the Woodbury Police Department would be responding to neighbor disputes, emergencies and to calls made directly to the Woodbury Police Department. The Police Department has requested, and will be granted, permission by the HOA to enforce parking and speeding on the site when necessary to ensure public safety or when specifically allowed by law.<sup>57</sup>

Based on the documented 13,119 calls for service made in 2004, the Town Police visited Woodbury Common 2,888 times, and 71% of the arrests for the year were at Woodbury Common.<sup>58</sup> Therefore, the current service calls-to-resident ratio (not including Woodbury Common) would be estimated at just over one call per resident annually. Based on an expected 1,166 new residents upon completion and full inhabitation, the impact to service calls to the police department (without the ambulance department) could be 1168 calls for service.

It is further anticipated that the number of calls within this community will be fewer than the per-resident call ratio experienced town-wide. Gated communities are designed to preclude public access to the development's roads, open space and community centers. The security measures are intended to deter crime and limit access by solicitors and canvassers and strangers.<sup>59</sup> Gated communities also tend to provide structure, recreation and a built-

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<sup>57</sup> Per memorandum of meeting held on May 2, 2005 between the Town Planning Board Engineering Consultant and the Town Emergency Services Organizations.

<sup>58</sup> Times Herald-Record, February 6, 2005.

<sup>59</sup> Fortress America: Gated Communities in The United States. Edward J. Blakely and Mary Gail Snyder (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institute, 1997).

in social life to reduce travel outside the development. The close proximity of a community center, recreation and open spaces allow for all residents to enjoy recreation and social activities within the development as opposed to traveling to the neighboring communities. This can result in less use of neighboring amenities. In some communities, the gates are viewed as a traffic control measure to limit the traffic traveling through the development.<sup>60</sup> This traffic control measure is often deemed desirable for families with children in the development and fewer vehicle trips would result in the need for less police presence.<sup>61</sup> This security and access control will help prevent access to the site by non-residents who might otherwise cause mischief, break-ins, scams, etc.

The Legacy Ridge development would not utilize the Woodbury Police Department's services for patrolling of the private roads nor for enforcement of Vehicle and Traffic laws, unless specifically allowed by law, thereby not increasing patrol time or expense, and relieving the Town's policing burden, freeing resources to be used elsewhere.

It is anticipated that the new residents will generate fewer police calls than the existing Town residents because:

Further, police department activities will be improved by virtue of additional tax dollars coming to the Town by virtue of this project, creating increased budget opportunities as can be seen in Section 3.15.

### ***Fire Services***

Access to the site for the Woodbury Fire District is provided via Trout Brook Road. The main and secondary access points to the development will be gated and located on Trout Brook Road. A separate ungated access will be provided off Smith Clove Road to serve 17 homes which will be part of the Legacy Ridge project, though not included in the gated community. Two emergency gated access points will be provided: one onto Smith Clove Road south of Trout Brook Road and one onto Skyline Drive to the south of the development. The Skyline Drive emergency access point will provide access for emergency responders for both the Skyline Drive community (which has only one way in and out) and a fourth point of access for the Legacy Ridge community.

Trout Brook Road is a public road that is maintained by the Orange County Highway Department. The road system within Legacy Ridge would be private and maintained by the Homeowner's Association. The roads and cul-de-sacs will be built in such a manner so as to provide sufficient access for emergency vehicles (See Figure 18, Road Cross Section and Mountable Curb Details and Figure 19, Typical Rotary and Street Design). Street lighting, street name signage and house number display will be provided in order to facilitate identification by emergency services (See Figures 16 and 17). Fire Hydrants will be provided throughout the project area for fire fighting. Additional and/or specialized fire apparatus will not be required to service the residences as they will be comparable to existing structures within the Fire District.

The roads will be designed and signed to a 25 mph standard. All access points will be plowed and maintained for access by emergency responders at all times. Road radii and

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<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

layout have been developed consistent with the Project Sponsor's understanding of the emergency providers needs, based on criteria developed during the WP3 design process.

The Homeowner's Association Board of Directors will provide traffic enforcement policies for traffic control and emergency access including speed limit compliance, parking and snow removal to facilitate fire department access to and around the site. The main gate will be fitted with a security gate that will be staffed 24 hours seven days a week. The Woodbury Fire District would be given access to the Legacy Ridge site at all times, by remote control access capabilities. The Woodbury Fire District currently use remote control access at the Woodbury Commons site, and similar access will be proposed for the Legacy Ridge site.

It is anticipated that the new residents, as they become an active part of the community, and as the families mature into the Town of Woodbury, will provide volunteers to the Fire Department. The fire-fighting capabilities, however, will be improved through increased tax dollars coming to the Town by virtue of the project, creating greater budget opportunities as can be seen in Section 3.15, and an improved water supply system as is described in Section 3.13.

The Legacy Ridge proposal is for residential housing, typical to the remainder of the Town of Woodbury, and therefore no specialized equipment is considered to be likely, and none has been identified by the fire District. The anticipated impacts as a result of the development to Fire Services are consistent with the surrounding area and the services currently provided by the Woodbury Fire District.

### ***Emergency Medical Services***

Access to the site for emergency vehicles will be provided via Trout Brook Road. The main and secondary access points to the development will be gated and located on Trout Brook Road. A separate ungated access will be provided off Smith Clove Road to serve 17 homes which will be part of the Legacy Ridge project, though not included in the gated community. Two emergency gated access points will be provided: one onto Smith Clove Road south of Trout Brook Road and one onto Skyline Drive to the south of the development. The Skyline Drive emergency access point will provide access for emergency responders for both the Skyline Drive community (which has only one way in and out) and a fourth point of access for the Legacy Ridge community.

Trout Brook Road is a public road that is maintained by the Orange County Highway Department. The road system within Legacy Ridge would be private and maintained by the Homeowner's Association. The roads and cul-de-sacs will be built in such a manner so as to provide sufficient access for emergency vehicles (See Figure 18, Road Cross Section and Mountable Curb Details and Figure 19, Typical Rotary and Street Design). Street lighting, street name signage and house number display will be provided in order to facilitate identification by emergency services (See Figures 16 and 17).

The roads will be designed and signed to a 25 mph standard. All access points will be plowed and maintained for access by emergency responders at all times. Road radii and layout have been developed consistent with the Project Sponsor's understanding of the emergency providers needs, based on criteria developed during the WP3 design process. . The Legacy Ridge project has a phased construction schedule that is anticipating 2011 as the build out date. Upon completion and occupancy of the Legacy Ridge development, the Woodbury Community Ambulance Department would be impacted by the addition of 287 households or 1,166 new residents in the area. It is anticipated that the new residents, as

they become part of the community, will provide volunteers to the Ambulance Department. Additionally, it is not anticipated that the department will be negatively impacted by possible increases in service calls as services are paid for by the patient and/or their insurance policies.

The type of emergency medical services anticipated as a result of this development is expected to be consistent with the services currently provided by the Woodbury Community Ambulance.

### ***Court Services***

The Town of Woodbury Court system could possibly be impacted by increases in small claims matters that are not currently handled by the Woodbury Police Department such as barking dog or noise complaints. These are expected to be somewhat limited by virtue of rules adopted by the Homeowner's Association.

In any event, it is not anticipated that any increase in numbers of court proceedings will be significant. It is estimated that any such increase would be offset by the increased tax dollars available (see Section 3.15).

### **3.10.3 Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Court Services Mitigation Measures**

While the demand for police, fire and emergency medical services may modestly increase as a result of the increased number of residents in the proposed project, the Legacy Ridge development is not anticipated to cause any significant impacts. It should be noted that the increased demand for these services would be offset by increased revenues to the Town of Woodbury in the form of real property taxes

#### ***Police Services***

Private road security and traffic policies enforcement will be handled by the Homeowner's Association Board of Directors. The Woodbury Police Department could be called in at such times as necessary police services are authorized to be provided to private property. As discussed above, however, as the Legacy Ridge project is a gated community, it is not anticipated that the number of calls will increase at the same rate as the current non-gated portions of the Town, since security will be provided by the HOA, vehicle and parking regulations will be enforced by the HOA, and there will be no need for regular police patrols.

#### ***Fire Services***

A review of the equipment in the Woodbury Fire District indicates that the existing fire protection facilities are capable of providing protection to the proposed subdivision. The Homeowner's Association Board of Directors will provide enforcement of traffic policies in order to maintain road and fire hydrant access to emergency personnel. On-site improvements will be implemented in order to provide the residential development with adequate capacity to meet fire flow requirements. Legacy Ridge requires a total of 120,000 gallons of fire flow storage based upon ISO Requirements and 140,000 gallons for average consumptive use for a total of 260,000 gallons of storage required. Legacy Ridge provides over 500,000 gallons of storage, of which 240,000 gallons is available for use by the existing water systems as discussed in Appendix 9.6, Water System Report.

#### ***Emergency Medical Services***

A review of the Woodbury Community Ambulance Department indicates that the existing emergency services are capable of providing "basic life-support" services to the proposed subdivision. No special equipment or services will be required.

The ambulance department is not funded by the Town of Woodbury. The ambulance department provides services to the Town of Woodbury and bills the patient's insurance company. Of the 13,719 emergency service calls made during 2004, approximately 600 were for the ambulance department.<sup>62</sup> Based on these figures of 0.06 calls per resident, it is not expected that full occupancy of the project would result in even 100 additional emergency calls to the department per year. Additionally, it is expected that the potential for increase in service calls could be offset by potential for volunteers to join the ambulance department.

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<sup>62</sup> Personal communication between Mike Geary of the Woodbury Ambulance Department and Barbara Gerlach of LMS Engineers LLP on March 30, 2005.

### ***Court Services***

Any increased demand for these services would be offset by increased revenues to the Town of Woodbury in the form of real property taxes.

### ***Alternative Development Impacts***

Under the alternative plans discussed within this EIS (See Section 5.0 for a complete description) the impact on Town services is expected to rise.

Under a non-clustered development plan, impacts to Police Services would be expected to be greater, as the plan would not include a gated community. Under this scenario, no HOA with its requirement to manage access, parking, etc. would be created. This would result in a greater need for the police department to regularly patrol the neighborhood and provide some of these services to the residents. Fire and emergency services impacts would be expected to be very similar to the Conservation Cluster development, as the number of homes would be expected to remain constant.

Likewise, a development plan which does not include rezoning, would be expected to have greater impacts on the police department as the plan would not include a gated community, an HOA or private patrols. Impacts to emergency services and the fire department would be reduced, as the number of homes would be reduced from 287 to 155.

Under all scenarios, other than the gated community proposed in the preferred plan, impacts to other town services would be expected to be greater, as no recreation centers or open space would be provided, and it is expected that the residents would have a greater likelihood of using Town facilities for programs which could otherwise be hosted within the recreation centers proposed on-site.