

TOWN OF BOWLING GREEN

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

04-19-2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor David W. Storke, Otis Wright, Bobby Ketterman, Glenn McDearmon, Jason Satterwhite and Mark Mallin.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Hinson and Daniel Webb.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Stephen Manster, Town Clerk Virginia Brooks, Fort A. P. Hill Commander LTC John Haefner, A. P. Hill Public Relations Liaison Jennifer Erickson.

PURPOSE: To meet with LTC John Haefner, Commander of Fort A. P. Hill.

The Mayor called the special meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. and welcomed LTC Haefner, Commander of Fort A. P. Hill. He said at the last meeting of Town Council, they discussed the work going on with the Fort A. P. Hill EOD School and the progress the Committee charged with the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. Mayor Storke noted there were questions from the Council that he and the Town Manager could not answer adequately. At the direction of Council Member McDearmon, he said they had invited LTC Haefner to this special meeting to provide information to Council and answer any questions Council may have. Mayor Storke noted that LTC Haefner had brought with him Jennifer Erickson who is the Public Affairs Specialist dealing with community relations. Mayor Storke said today's meeting was not a public hearing but a time for Town Council to ask questions following the presentation. He said the County had written a resolution in opposition of the EOD School but it was tabled until a Committee could come together to work on a Memorandum of Understanding. Mayor Stoke said he was a member of that Committee and the Town Manager had also attended some of the meetings. He said also participating in that meeting were the Army, Fort A. P. Hill, Mayor of the Town of Port Royal, President of the Homeowners Association of Portabago Bay, Caroline County Supervisor Jeff Sili, Caroline County Supervisor Popowicz, and Caroline County Administrator Percy Ashcraft or Assistant Caroline County Administrator Alan Partin. Mayor Storke also stated that Port Royal Council Member Jim Heimbach attended most of the meetings.

DELEGATIONS:

LTC John Haefner – Commander of Fort A. P. Hill – LTC Haefner gave a verbal and slide presentation of the Fort A. P. Hill EOD School. Some of the highlights from LTC Haefner's presentation are as follows:

- The environmental process regarding the EOD School started five years ago and is a long process that has to pass through several regulatory departments.
- A. P. Hill is the third largest installation in the Northeast, largest landholder in the State of Virginia, second largest employer in Caroline County, and top rated Army installation in Virginia in BRAC 2005 for "Military Value."
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) School will maintain 33 full-time military instructors and support personnel.
- Noise study associated with proposed EOD Training at Fort A. P. Hill was

Mayor _____ Clerk _____

conducted at Fort A. P. Hill during February 4-12, 2010. The sound levels located at the 8 community monitoring sites recorded a total of 1,386 events related to the proposed EOD activity. The 1,386 events replicate the changes to the proposed action (0.25 lb, 1.25 lb, and 25 lb detonations). Recorded noise levels in the community were not high enough to damage structures. No levels were recorded which correlate with a high complaint risk (<dbp). Less than one percent (0.14 percent) of events exceeding 115 dbp. Levels below 115 dbp are classified as low complaint risk. The proposed action will not generate noise levels high enough to cause even threshold/minor damage.

- Bowling Green is approximately 8 miles away from the heavy demolitions. Wind can help push noise – may have a chance of reaching Bowling Green. The community noise feedback showed no high complaint risk and no damage was reported. The largest explosive that has been done at A. P. Hill was a 350 lb. Miklik set off by the Marine Corps. There were damage claims for that incident.

In answer to a question from Mr. McDearmon, LTC Haefner noted that maximum explosive limits at A. P. Hill are normally 100 lbs or less in most areas. He noted that the EOD has agreed to a 25 lb. ceiling. LTC Haefner stated that for the EOD School to increase the size, they would have to go through the regulatory process. The typical size used in Afghanistan is 100 to 200 lbs.

In an answer to a question from Council Member Satterwhite, LTC Haefner said the concessions made by A. P. Hill were that they increased the public comment to five times the required amount, reduced shot sizes, and moved the sites further inward, away from Port Royal and Portabago Bay.

In answer to a question from Mayor Storke, LTC Haefner said there had been increases in the firing at A. P. Hill which is directly proportional to BRAC and the war. He said there has been a very tight management of noise in the last few weeks. LTC Haefner said noise monitors have been placed between Bowling Green and A. P. Hill.

Mr. McDearmon questioned if there were going to be restrictions on what the Town can construct on the 301 Corridor. He said the Town is planning on making a significant investment in infrastructure in that area. LTC Haefner said they are commissioning two additional parts to their master plan and there is a community session they will start working on after the Jamboree. He said there would be a new reserve center in 2011 on Campbell Road with 250 more soldiers coming in. In answer to a question from the Mayor, LTC Haefner said the EOD School is coming because of BRAC but he did not know when there would be another BRAC, maybe never.

In answer to a question from Mr. McDearmon, LTC Haefner stated that results from the environmental impact study on wild animals and water showed no significant impact.

Mr. McDearmon expressed concern about something being placed on the perimeter of Bowling Green. LTC Haefner noted that when a demolition area is moved farther away, sometimes the noise is worse, according to temperature, weather and acoustics. He said he would provide a map to the Town Council showing where things are located on the base. LTC Haefner said there were no buffers around the EOD School.

LTC Haefner said he proposed having a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) working group on March 9, 2010 at the Board of Supervisor's meeting. He said he had invited Mayor Storke to be present at the 1st meeting. LTC Haefner said the purpose of that group would be to continue to work and answer questions. He said the Group met on

Mayor _____ Clerk _____

March 15th and proposed that changes be made to the draft MOU and they delivered a draft at a meeting on March 19th. LTC Haefner noted that they met again on March 22nd. He said the last meeting was on April 6th where Mr. Lampman presented an eight page draft MOU to the group. LTC Haefner said a Congressional Staff delegation met with local leaders on April 16th. He said during that meeting he was informed that the County released the Resolution in opposition to the EOD School which included some erroneous statements. LTC Haefner noted that the Federal Government is not bound to do business with a private entity. He said he is going to take the MOU that the Army drafted which is clear and concise and reissue it. The Mayor asked LTC Haefner to send a copy of that MOU to the Town Manager for the Council to see.

In answer to a question from Mr. Wright, LTC Haefner stated that under the current appropriations, there was no new housing being built at A. P. Hill.

In answer to a question from Mr. Satterwhite, LTC Haefner said they would be looking at the zoning for the 301 Corridor and suggested residential was probably not the best option.

The Mayor expressed appreciation for the good relationship with A. P. Hill.

LTC Haefner said the EOD School was scheduled to start June, 2011. He said the current proposed action is whether to move the demolition further from Port Royal and Portabago Bay.

The Council thanked LTC Haefner for coming to the meeting and providing information.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Wright, seconded by Ketterman, Council adjourned the meeting at 4:40 P. M. Voting Aye: McDearmon, Wright, Ketterman, Mallin, and Satterwhite.

Mayor _____ Clerk _____