

State Police Gun Range Informational Meeting

April 6, 2016 7pm

Hampton Elementary School

Jamie Boss, Hampton

Will there be tear gas training? No

Will there be SWAT training? Yes

Will there be machine gun & automatic weapons training? Yes, up to 22 caliber

Will there be local employment opportunities? No, all staff are State Police

Is 125 cars the maximum? Yes, but usually as few as 30

How will lighting affect the area? Most training will take place during the daylight hours

What type of security will there be? Fencing, 24-hour alarm system monitoring

Will there be mass storage of ammunition? No

Will there be a helipad? No

Where will muzzles be pointed? In a direction as safe as can be determined

What is the projected cost? \$6 million

How can cost be justified? Bond allocation already approved by legislature, not paid for out of operating expenses

Michael Lynch, Hampton, abutting property owner

Not in favor of project, concerned about property value.

Response: current site is flood prone, loss of training time, cost of repair of site and deteriorating building from flooding; predominantly training is semi-automatic firing; troopers must also go through low-light training every 3 years which would be completed no more than a half hour after sunset

Bob Petix, Hampton

Asked about familiarity with claims on unwillington.com

Asked if officials were gauging whether Hampton has the gumption to fight the range

Asked what's in it for the town, what benefit to the town? PILOT funds, increased trooper presence, possible retail opportunities in providing coffee, lunch, etc.

Lois Kelley, Hampton

Asked if EIE (Environmental Impact Statement) will cover impact to animals, horse farms in area, day care in area, wedding facilities in area? Willing to work with surrounding property owners to accommodate

Are the PILOT funds guaranteed? No, dependent upon the vote of the legislature each year as part of budget process; usually around 45% of assessed value of property, although sometimes up to 60%

Why are all the properties under consideration east of the CT river? Landowners offered land up for purchase

Lynn Burdick, Hampton

Family owns large amount of land in town

In favor of project, suggested using retired troopers to get the message out

Are there problems in Simsbury with noise, pollution, etc? None reported, no testing done on watershed or soil

Supports the concept of need for the range, sees benefit in trooper presence in town and PILOT funds rather than chancing development of the land

Rick Ross, Hampton

Moved to Quiet Corner to lead quiet life

Stated AI's preoccupation with infrastructure at odds with the constituency of the town

Listed the number of parks, forests and land trust in town

Claimed little need for security in Hampton

Asked why State is not liable to follow local zoning laws

Claimed that other State projects didn't follow plans promised

James Brown, Hampton

Relatively new resident

Asked the minimum distance shooter must be from edge of property, concern about sound

When was property offered? Before the deadline of March 21

Do any of the presenters live in this area? No

Micah Mlyniec, Hampton

How far away can gunshots be heard? Will be answered in EIE, test fires possible on site to determine

Jamie Boss, Hampton

Will noise be mitigated in any way? Will be addressed in EIE, will bring in experts to dampen sound as much as possible

Ellen Embardo, Hampton

Can virtual reality be used to train as astronauts do? Yes, to a certain extent, then must train on real equipment in order to be ready to deal with real life situations?

Can silencers be used? No, expensive and changes velocity of ammunition, making the training less effective

Bruce Spaman, Hampton

Relatively new resident

Could hear shots fired up to 10-12 miles away

Why can't Niantic facility be used? Why can't East Haven facility be used? Military training different than trooper training, no extra space to adjust

Why can't Meriden Post Academy facility be used? Already heavily used, municipal police must already schedule at least six months in advance

Tony Brown, Canterbury, abutting landowner

Where will access to land be located? TBD in EIE

What percentage of opposition be necessary to convince State Police to forget this parcel?

Bob Pinko, Voluntown

Has attended meetings in other towns

How often is lead removed from berms? Minimally every two years

Expressed concern about lead spreading to groundwater

Kate Donnelly, Hampton

What security will be in place? Fencing, alarm systems, locks, ammunition locked away, 24-hour alarm monitoring

Will there be reimbursement for increased use of town roads? Addressed in EIE

Can deadline for comment be extended from one week? Will depend upon rescheduling of Sprague informational meeting

Does the valuation of the property include the value of the buildings? Yes

Asked for applause from those in room opposed to project

John Gorman, Hampton

Empathizes with abutting landowners

Already hears plenty of noise in town, does not see problem

Is it possible to open facility to use by Hampton residents? Open to all suggestions

Susan Classen-Sullivan, Canterbury, abutting landowner

Claimed Al's comments suggest Hampton's residents don't know what's good for them

Noise is a huge concern, claims a "certain brutality" in training in a neighborhood

Suggested finding a more appropriate location

Deb Espinosa, Hampton

Lives quarter mile away

Asked what guarantee a stray bullet won't reach property killing valuable investment (at horse farm) or injuring/killing grandchildren? Plan includes heightened berms between each range, safety is utmost concern

Bruce Kittredge, Hampton

Calculated over a half million rounds per year would be fired at rate of 30 troopers/day 3 days/week

What would be the estimated PILOT fund payment? \$50,000-\$100,000

Simsbury is paid only \$6440

Aaron Tumel, Hampton

Questioned how State funding can be cut from so many areas but plenty of money to have such a presence at the meetings

Bob Dibble, Hampton

Asked for justification for project with the net loss of only a handful of days? Force looking to do more simultaneously, flooding also destroying building with great expense in repair

Kevin Grindle, Hampton

Time frame for EIE? Next steps? 2-3 weeks vetting each parcel, 9 months to a year creating EIE which will cover all vetted parcels, all done before land acquisition, one year of design, one year of construction including land clearing, grading.

Life expectancy of project? 30-50 years

How much land will actually be used for plan? Building on plan = 30 acres to be situated with enough area around to act as buffer

What will be stored at facility? 1 weeks' worth of ammunition and guns needed for training and repair

Concern about Plan of Development, upending of natural resources

Pat Sullivan, Canterbury

Stated that locating site in residential area is inappropriate, an industrial site or one near an already noisy airport should be found

Dusty Donahue, Hampton

Is the State Police the only organization that will be using facility? Will military or municipal organizations be allowed to use? Only State Police partners; in Simsbury, facility is used 80% by State Police, 20% by targeted partners

Rich Schenk, Hampton

Says town is proud to have no street lights, that residents here even fought a bank from locating in town

Bob Johnson, Hampton

Will State Police market state-of-the-art facility to other police organizations? Will facility be limited to uses outlined at meeting? To the extent already done as stated

Nancy Armstrong, Hampton

Will troopers be sent from facility to town in case of emergency? Yes, only for life-threatening emergencies, otherwise must wait for dispatch

Pete Reardon, Scotland

People are worried about safety, sound, preoperty values, doesn't see how state can afford to procure more land in current economic climate

Female speaker, Voluntown

Voluntown has lost \$70,000 because of so much state land within town boundaries

Female speaker, Voluntown

Have a State properties been eliminated as potential sites, including gravel pits, land near airports? Yes
How much is each trooper required to train? 3 times/year, including handgun, rifle, shotgun; need ability to address real-life situations

Kathleen Carpenter, Hampton

Requested that comment time should be extended to a month? Compromise on May 1st deadline

Are all emails and letters answered? Yes

Stated that property owner in Griswold withdrew offer because he "wanted to be a good neighbor"; asked that Hampton owner do the same

Wayne Kilpatrick, Hampton

Has lead analysis of soil or water table in Simsbury been done? No

Has concerns about groundwater, lead spreading to Little River

PJ Navin, Hampton

Believes that State Police would not put citizenry in danger

Supports CT State Police and wants to see them highly trained

Supports the gun range

Feels that animals and people will adjust to the noise

Lynn Burdick, Hampton

Would the State Police consider providing a free resident state trooper? All suggestions welcomed

Once state decides, will town have any more say or veto power? No

Supports the facility, feels that opinions of those who are landowners should carry more weight than those of renters

Ed Burchfield, Hampton

Asked that all views be considered, not just the 126 signing the petition opposing the range in Hampton, claims they're a small minority in town

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Newcombe

Recording Clerk