



Warwick Emergency Services Commission

Minutes of February 6, 2023 WESC Meeting, held at Rothsville Fire Station.

In Attendance (20): Chris Buchmoyer, Justin Cracroft, Mike Diehl, Eli Ebersol, Brett Fassnacht, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Brian Harris, Aaron Hoover, Devin Learn, Mark Lovette, Rodney May, Lynn Mearig, Duane Ober, Keith Rothermel, Dennis Strauss, Chris Strayer, Elijah Yearick, Greg Young and John Zeswitz.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Andy Greiner at 6:30pm.

Reorganization of Board for 2023: Greg Young made a motion to appoint Andy Greiner as Chairman, Mike Diehl as Vice-Chairman, Jeff Tennis as Treasurer, and Duane Ober as Secretary; seconded by Jeff Garner and approved.

Naming of Citizen Representatives: Chris Buchmoyer made a motion to accept Eli Ebersole as the Elizabeth Township representative, Chris Strayer for Lititz Borough, and John Zeswitz for Warwick Township; seconded by Greg Young and approved.

Naming of Fire Company and Ambulance Representatives and Alternates: Brickerville Fire Company – Dennis Strauss and Keith Rothermel; Brunnerville Fire Company – Lynn Mearig and Jeff Garner; Lititz Fire Company – Zach Miller and Devin Learn; Rothsville Fire Company – Greg Young and Aaron Hoover; Warwick Ambulance – Frank Kenavan and Chris Buchmoyer; Rothsville Fire Company Ambulance – Jim Hoover and Justin Cracroft; and Northwest EMS - Edna Kline and Scott Kingsboro.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Diehl reviewed the year-end 2022 financial report, which showed a balance of \$5,091.38. Lynn Mearig made a motion to approve the final 2022 Financial Report, seconded by Justin Cracroft and approved. Mike Diehl then reviewed the 2023 year-to-date financial report. Dennis Strauss made a motion to accept the year-to-date report, seconded by Lynn Mearig and approved.

Previous Minutes: Greg Young made a motion to accept the December 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Lynn Mearig and approved.

Unfinished Business

EMS Authority: Commissioner Ober read an update sent to him from Scott Kingsboro about the status of the EMS Authority. Eight municipalities, including Elizabeth Township, enacted ordinances to form the Municipal Emergency Services Authority of Lancaster County (MESA). They are now in the process of being incorporated; board members have been designated and will start meeting upon incorporation.

Discussion on Deputy Fire Commissioner role: Andy Greiner gave an update on the status of the Deputy Fire Commissioner role, including that all three municipalities have approved the role and

budgeted funds for the position. After a brief discussion, Greg Young made a motion to hire Mike Smith as the WESC Deputy Fire Commissioner, at the budgeted salary, starting on April 3, 2023, with Lititz Fire Company contributing \$30,000 per year for five years and covering all operating expenses of the position, including a vehicle and the necessary fire equipment. Chris Buchmoyer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

ISO Reports: Commissioner Ober reported that he and Chief Smith met with ISO representative who did our evaluation this past year. They reviewed ways to improve our scores to improve our ISO ratings. Some keys to better scores include better documentation of training activities, increased fire safety activities in the community, hydrant flow testing (not just flushing), and documentation of the required vehicle and equipment maintenance records.

New Business

2022 Fire and EMS Statistics: Commissioner Ober reviewed fire and ambulance statistics from 2022 and discussed trends of key categories.

Annual Tax Credits for Volunteers: All three municipalities have agreed to provide the \$200 earned income tax credits for the volunteers this year. Commissioner Ober will prepare the documents.

Comments from Agencies

Brickerville FC – Dennis Strauss stated that there are two firefighters currently taking a vehicle rescue class being held at Rothsville. He also commented on losing four active firefighters in recent years, which is contributing to the decrease in staffing levels.

Brunnerville FC – Lynn Mearig advised finishing touches are still being done on their station renovation. They also have four firefighters taking the vehicle rescue class right now. One firefighter has completed the basic fire academy. One active firefighter has been hired at Reading and will begin their fire academy soon and another firefighter will be entering the military soon. They received a \$2,500 grant from Ephrata National Bank that was used to purchase a FAST Board for firefighter rescue, and this year's state grant is being used to buy a battery-powered rescue tool and fan.

Lititz FC – Devin Learn reported there was more than 35 volunteers from Lititz, Brunnerville, and Rothsville fire companies on scene last week at a house fire in Lititz Borough. They had 20 firefighters on standby during the Governor's Inauguration Celebration at Rock Lititz in January. Their fund drive has brought in \$280,000, with only 28% returns. Their lowest level of support is from rental units (only 8%). The ladder truck recently had its annual preventative maintenance.

Rothsville FC – Greg Young reported they are using this year's state grant to fund half the cost of the gym they installed in the fire station. They have firefighters taking the vehicle rescue class right now. In March and April, they will be hosting an emergency medical responder (EMR) class. In March, they

have four firefighters who will start the basic fire academy class (150 hours). They averaged 10.5 firefighters per call in 2022. Their fund drive has brought in \$80,000 this year, with about 28% support.

Warwick Ambulance – Frank Kenavan reported their subscription program is 10% higher than it was last year. They are using their state grant award to fund a power load system for one of their ambulances. They also received the Ephrata National Bank grant. Chris Buchmoyer reported that they will be participating in an active shooter drill at Ephrata Wellspan Hospital in April.

Rothsville Ambulance – Justin Cracroft reported that with the upcoming EMR class, they have been getting ride-along requests. The fire company and ambulance will be holding an Open House on May 20th with a goal of targeting potential new members. They will also be participating in the active shooter drill. President Jim Hoover was recently awarded Life Membership. Their state grant this year was applied towards the cost of their new ambulance. Their subscription program has earned around \$90,000 this year, with an average of \$103 per donation. They sold their 2009 Chevrolet ambulance to Christiana Ambulance, where former employee Corey Gossert works.

NWEMS – Edna Kline reported they are close to putting a new Squad in service, just waiting on equipment that is on back order. This will be their 2nd advanced life support squad in service.

Elizabeth Township – No report.

Lititz Borough – Elijah Yearick reported that the three municipalities will be updating the regional comprehensive plan this year and Commissioner Ober is part of the committee. On August 10th, community services will be the topic at the public meeting for the committee. PennDOT has advised that East Main Street and Water Street will be paved this year. Norfolk Southern will be removing the rails across Water and Cedar Streets. A culvert will be repaired at Cedar Street and Lincoln Street this year. South Spruce Street will have a water main replacement this year, continuing from where they left off last year.

Warwick Township – Brian Harris also reported on the regional comprehensive plan that will begin in April. East Sixth Street is anticipated to be opened at Siegrist Farm Road in June. The Orchard Road development has not started yet, so the road closing planned in the past has not occurred yet. Two housing projects off of West Woods Drive (Walton Hill – extension of Tupelo Drive, and seven lots by Mark Will) are in process. Warwick Township is hiring two public works employees, applications are due by end of February.

Chris Strayer – Chris asked if the Warwick Ambulance subscription mailers only went to residents this year and not businesses? Frank Kenavan replied that is true for last year, but this year they will also go to businesses. Chris also encouraged the Board to keep an eye on staffing levels and take necessary steps to assure proper service to the community.

John Zeswitz – John encouraged a push to seek more volunteers for the organizations and to find ways to reduce their workloads outside of their normal duties.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm. Next meeting is April 3, 2023, at Lititz Fire Station, starting at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Fire Commissioner Duane Ober, February 13, 2023.