

**Minutes of March 20, 2017 WESC Meeting**, held at Brunnerville Fire Station.

**In Attendance:** Sonny Ebersole, Herb Flosdorf, Mike Flynn, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Don Hoover, Jim Hoover, Scott Kingsboro, Rodney May, Lynn Mearig, Duane Ober, Ron Oettel, Mike Smith, Jeff Strauss, Brian Wiker, Greg Young, Sam Young and Dan Zimmerman.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Andy Greiner at 6:00pm.

**Treasurer's Report:** The 2017 year-to-date budget was reviewed by Brian Wiker with no comments. Herb Flosdorf made a motion to accept the current budget as shown, seconded by Ron Oettel and passed.

**Previous Minutes:** Ron Oettel made a motion to accept the January 2017 Meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Herb Flosdorf and passed.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Medical Exams** – Duane reported that the problems in the billing process appear to have been resolved. The doctor's office can provide the series of Hepatitis B shots, as well as providing Hepatitis C shots for the older members. He is also working with Arielle to coordinate a time to meet with one of the doctors on the staff to discuss the ability to do more cancer screening of the volunteers.

**Earned Income Tax / Property Tax Relief** – Duane reported that the State Fire Commissioner provided some information to Randy Gockley about some ideas for tax relief for volunteers, but nothing is near being decided. There will be an open panel discussion on the topic at next week's Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors meeting. Ron Oettel reported that an idea has been brought up to put eligibility at a minimum of 100 hours of service per year, which could create problems for smaller fire companies who aren't as busy with responses to fire calls. The tax relief will not be available for this year.

**Radio Call Sign** – Brickerville, Brunnerville and Rothsville Fire Companies have approved a Lieutenant call sign for Duane when it is needed to be used.

**EMS Letters** – Per the discussion at the last meeting, Duane drafted letters on behalf of the ambulance agencies to send to their local fire companies requesting their assistance at incidents.

**Intermunicipal Agreement** – the changes to the agreement were approved by each of the three municipalities and is now updated.

**Strategic Plans** – Duane shared a timeline of the apparatus replacement plan for Brunnerville, Lititz and Rothsville Fire Companies, as presented to Warwick Township and Lititz Borough. It is a 25-year plan that will be reviewed annually and updated as needed. Discussion was held on the financial support for the plan, including the review of the contributions being made by Warwick Township and the funds requested from Lititz Borough. After clarification that this plan will be used as a planning tool, which can be adjusted as needed to allow for changes in pricing and replacement dates, as well as apparatus resale value, Ron Oettel made a motion to adopt the Apparatus Replacement and Financial Plan for Brunnerville, Lititz and Rothsville Fire Companies as presented; seconded by Sam Young and passed. Brickerville Fire Company has not submitted a plan yet, so no replacement plan or financial plan has been created that includes them.

## **New Business**

**Detailed Incident Reporting** – Andy Greiner asked the leaders about their practice of documenting what happened at incidents to make sure when the volunteers are exposed to possible carcinogens that it is tracked. Due to the cancer presumption laws in place, Andy expressed concern that everything is being done locally to make sure any risk of exposure is documented in case the data is needed in the future. Mike Smith explained how he enters data into incident reports for Lititz Fire Company and Mike Flynn shared how he prepares his reports when his EMS staff is exposed to blood, needles, etc.

**Impact of Automatic Fire Alarms on Volunteers** - Herb Florsdorf questioned the number of automatic fire alarms, specifically with Lititz Fire Company, and how that impacts the volunteers firefighters. About 30% of LFC's incident responses in a year are related to automatic fire alarms. Some alarms are due to legitimate reasons, such as smoke from burnt food, while others are a result of poor maintenance of the system. There was discussion about meeting with the property owners where the high frequency responses occur to see if something can be done to reduce the number of false alarms, such as possibly fining the property owner or to change the process in which the alarms get reported (in-house investigation instead of requiring FD response). There was also discussion about a false-alarm ordinance in Warwick Township and how one for fire alarms can be created to mirror the same that the police use for false alarms. Duane will check into this with Dan and report back at the next meeting.

**Municipal Emergency Operations Plans** – Duane shared that the municipal emergency operation plans should be exercised to ensure that all involved agencies are prepared to handle emergencies and the roles that they are expected to perform. He advised that a table-top training event will be scheduled later in the year for all local fire companies, ambulances, police, public works and elected officials to be a part of.

**2017 Priorities and Projects** – The Board members were asked for ideas for objectives for Duane this year and a few ideas shared were to research the need / use of a reserve pumper, continuation of pre-plans, Knox Box reviews and new development or construction plan reviews and emergency management planning, in addition to current projects still in process. Duane and Dan Zimmerman will work to create a more detailed list of objectives to be shared later.

## **Agency Comments**

**Brickerville** – Jeff Strauss shared his members participated in an event on March 4<sup>th</sup> in which they visited nearly 225 homes in the Brickerville area to check smoke detectors and to recruit new members. They handed out 21 applications and 4 have since been submitted for membership. They plan to do another event like this again.

**Brunnerville** – Lynn Mearig reported that they currently have 7 junior firefighters who have been really engaged in training and learning more. They are registered for the Essentials fire training program at the County's Training Center. Also, the fire company will be hosting a Structural Burn class in June in which they will be doing a live burn at an acquired structure located on Chestnut Street. Lynn also thanked Warwick Township for additional funds that they added into the Capital Account this year. (Ron Oettel and Greg Young also thanked the Township)

**Lititz** – Ron Oettel expressed concern with the number of special events held in Lititz Borough and the impact it has on the ability of his members to respond to the station for fire calls and the response times of the fire trucks.

**Rothsville** – Greg Young reported they recently brought in 3 new junior firefighters also, all of which are family members of existing members, so he anticipates they will be around a long time. Sam Young reported that the fire company will be holding a Chicken BBQ on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Northwest EMS** – Scott Kingsboro reported that they are just one month shy of their year anniversary in Brickerville and thanked everyone for their support.

**Rothsville Ambulance** – Jim Hoover said they are close to finishing their Emergency Medical Response course, in which he anticipates receiving 3-4 new volunteers to run ambulance calls. They will be hosting a community CPR class on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Elizabeth Township** – Brian Wiker gave his appreciation to Northwest EMS for their service to Elizabeth Township and stated that he is encouraged by the increased communication among everyone on the Board and the progress we are making.

**Lititz Borough** – Andy Greiner also thanked everyone for their continued support in the past year.

**Warwick Township** – Herb Flosdorf thanked everyone for their efforts and service as well. Dan Zimmerman also reported on the efforts being made in the township to create an ordinance for fireworks, referring to a new business at Rock Lititz Pod 2, Pyrotech, who will be helping write the ordinance.

**Sonny Ebersole** – Sonny gave his thanks to everyone for the hard work that goes into making the emergency services organizations successful. He also expressed disappointment in the 65% of the community who do not donate to the fund drives.

**Don Hoover** – Don gave his thanks to the volunteers and stressed the need to maintain qualified staffs – those who will continue to train and learn their trade. Don also spoke about the farm safety programs that he is involved with and stated that he will bring examples of their handouts to our next meeting.

With no other business, Sam Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Oettel and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Next meeting is **May 15<sup>th</sup> at Brickerville Fire Station at 6pm.**

Minutes submitted by Duane Ober, March 21, 2017.