

**Minutes of January 16, 2017 WESC Meeting**, held at Lititz Fire Station.

**In Attendance:** Sonny Ebersole, Herb Flosdorf, Mike Flynn, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Jim Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Rodney May, Duane Ober, Keith Rothermel, Mike Smith, Chris Strayer, Brian Wiker, Greg Young, Sam Young and Dan Zimmerman.

Meeting was called to order by Brian Wiker at 6:00pm.

**Reorganization:** Chairman Wiker started with the meeting with the Reorganization of the Board. Brian made a motion to nominate Andy Greiner for Chairman, Herb Flosdorf for Vice-Chairman and Brian Wiker for Secretary/Treasurer; seconded by Andy Greiner and passed.

Andy Greiner took the Chair and called for the appointment of the Representative and Alternate from each fire company and Warwick Ambulance and naming of the Citizen-at-large. The following were named: Brickerville: Main – Jeff Strauss and Alternate – Keith Rothermel; Brunnerville: Main – Jeff Garner and Alternate: Lynn Mearig; Lititz: Main – Ron Oettel and Alternate: Mike Smith; Rothsville: Main – Greg Young and Alternate: Sam Young; Warwick Ambulance: Main – Frank Kenavan and Alternate: Brian Donmoyer. Sonny Ebersole from Elizabeth Township was re-appointed to be the Citizen-at-large.

**Treasurer's Report:** The 2016 year-end report was reviewed and noted that \$10,453 was the remaining balance, which was transferred to the 2017 budget. The 2017 year-to-date budget was also reviewed with no comments. Jeff Garner made a motion to accept the two Budgets as shown, seconded by Greg Young and passed.

**Previous Minutes:** Frank Kenavan made a motion to accept the September 2016 Minutes (there was no meeting in November) as written; seconded by Herb Flosdorf and passed.

**Unfinished Business**

**Medical Exams** – Duane reported that since getting the medical exam (physicals) started again, there have been 10 firefighters from Brickerville and 2 more from Rothsville who have completed the tests. There are still some billing errors occurring in which Duane is working with Arielle to get straightened out. The exam schedule and location is changing – at a minimum, there will be an open date on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9:00am to schedule an appointment at the Heartland Family Practice. If another date or time is needed, they will work with the volunteer to do so, but it will be based on the availability of their staff. There will not be any more group physicals scheduled to take place at Lititz Fire Station due to the lack of consistent numbers. Everything is also done in one appointment with a follow-up phone call from Dr. Hurtubise to review the results of the exam.

Duane also spoke about the requirement to complete the physicals. It was determined at a previous meeting that the physicals will be required of all new members, but as far as existing members, there was no mandate made. It was to be determined by the individual chiefs and strongly encouraged to endorse it. The example of a firefighter at one of our companies discovering a serious medical condition during his physical was discussed, proving the benefit of all existing members to have this done. It was also pointed out that having all volunteers get physicals helps to create a baseline for any future problems.

**Fire Prevention Week Statistics** – Duane reported that approximately 3,100 students in the area were contacted by providing them with drawstring backpacks and fire safety materials. Over 125 man-hours were spent presenting fire safety programs in the schools or at the fire stations in October. We presented directly to approx.

960 students in parochial schools, day cares and nursery schools. We did not present in any of the Warwick School District buildings.

**Earned Income Tax / Property Tax Relief** – Duane reported there is still work to be done with this before there can be any answer to what this means for the volunteers. The State Fire Commissioner appears to be deferring the creation of the criteria to be eligible for the tax credit to the local level. Duane will be serving on a committee with other county leaders to hold discussions and give ideas on fair and similar criteria to be used throughout the county. The tax credit can be applied towards the volunteer's Earned Income Tax payment or municipal property tax payment, if the local taxing boards approve it. It should be stated that this process could take some time and it is possible it won't go into effect locally until 2018. The elected officials on the WESC Board agreed to meet to discuss ideas for eligibility for the local volunteers, which applies to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

**Strategic Plans** – Discussion was held about the strategic planning of the finances and apparatus plans for the fire companies. After reviewing their contributions to the local fire companies, Warwick Township has decided to move forward to combine their financial contributions into one account (Capital), to be used for apparatus replacement. This decision was agreed upon by the three fire companies and beginning in 2017, they will be contributing a total of \$190,000 into the three accounts. The apparatus replacement plans presented to them from the three fire companies helped determine this dollar amount. Lititz Borough has agreed to support the Lititz Fire Company plan in 2017, with further discussion of their plans still to take place. Elizabeth Township decided to start to hold the fire company's contribution in their general fund, like Warwick Township's Capital accounts. Dan Zimmerman commented that the commitment to the funding also brings with it the need for an annual review of the apparatus replacement plan and goals of the fire company, which was agreed upon. Duane was asked to bring copies of the plans to the March meeting for all to review.

### **New Business**

**November 2016 WESC Board Meeting** – It was noted that the November 2016 meeting was cancelled due to an anticipated lack of a quorum.

**2016 Fund Drive Results** – Each agency gave an update of their 2016 Fund Drive campaigns.

Brickerville Fire Co. – Received 735 donations for \$77,000 for 35% return, which is lower than normal 40% return. They anticipate a lower return in 2017 due to no longer receiving funding for ambulance service.

Brunnerville Fire Co. – Received 584 donations for \$46,619 for 36% return. Looking to change fund drive to the Spring in 2017, instead of the Fall.

Lititz Fire Co. – Received 2,228 donations for \$215,000 for 28% return from residents and 27% from businesses. Mike Smith also shared that a review of the 1986 fund drive campaign was found at their fire station and it showed a total of 2,120 donations, which is almost exactly what they have received this year. This confirms that the support of the community has not increased; and it's now at a lower return percentage due to the addition of new housing and businesses.

Rothsville Fire Co. – Received 668 donations for \$59,000 for 33.5% return. They do their fund drive in the Fall due to the Ambulance mailing theirs in the Spring.

Rothsville Ambulance – Received 997 donations for \$70,145 for 33% return, which is \$3,000 more than 2015.

Warwick Ambulance – Received \$201,000 from 30% of community, which is lower than 31.5% return in 2015.

**2016 Year-end Fire Company Statistics** – Duane reviewed the totals for the four fire companies and how they compared to the two previous years. Each fire company responded to more calls this year than in 2015. However,

each fire company saw a decrease in the average number of firefighters responding to each call. The average number of responders ranges from 7.5 per call in Brickerville to 10.1 at Lititz. The busiest times of day were mostly 8am-4pm, but 4pm-12am was very close as well. The types of calls were reviewed as well, in regards to reported fires, vehicle accidents and automatic fire alarms.

**2016 State Fire / EMS Grants** – Each agency stated what they applied for this year: Brickerville – rescue tool power units; Brunnerville – rescue struts; Lititz – reimbursement towards duty vehicle purchase; Rothsville FC – debt reduction (will allow FC to pay off remaining balance on Engine loan); Rothsville Ambulance – Stryker stretcher; and Warwick Ambulance – debt reduction.

**Fire Company Role at Medical Calls** – Jeff Garner reported that he heard that the new EMS Act would not recognize fire companies providing medical care to patients unless they are registered with the Department of Health. This would impact the fire companies when responding to calls such as cardiac arrests and pedestrians struck. After discussion and feedback from Frank, it was decided that this could be resolved if the local ambulances signed a document stating that the fire company's response and assistance at certain medical calls is necessary and required. Duane was asked to draft a letter and provide to the ambulances to sign and send to each of the fire companies.

**Review of WESC Intermunicipal Agreement and Additions** – Discussion took place of the value of adding a citizen-at-large to the WESC Board from each municipality, not just one that is rotated. Brian Wiker made a motion to allow a citizen-at-large from each municipality with the approval of their governing board, seconded by Herb Flosdorf and passed. Pending approval from Lititz Borough and Warwick Township, Chris Strayer was approved to represent Lititz Borough and Don Hoover was approved to represent Warwick Township.

Also brought to the Board for a vote was to allow Rothsville Ambulance and Northwest EMS to have representation on the WESC Board as a voting member. This would also require an update to the Intermunicipal Agreement as well. Frank Kenavan made a motion to add Rothsville Ambulance and Northwest EMS as voting member of the WESC Board, seconded by Jeff Garner and passed. Scott Kingsboro will be the main representative for NWEMS and Jim Hoover for Rothsville Ambulance.

Greg Young made a motion to amend the Intermunicipal Agreement with the above changes, seconded by Jeff Garner and passed. Duane was asked to make changes to the agreement, to be signed again by the municipalities.

### **Agency Comments**

**Brickerville** – Jeff Strauss shared that their call volume has been very slow lately and expressed his concern with their current staffing levels.

**Brunnerville** – Jeff Garner reported that 2016 was a very busy year for them. He also shared that they have brought in many junior firefighters and untrained firefighters in the past few months, but they are very eager to learn and have been registering for many certified training classes.

**Lititz** – Mike Smith commented on the recent tour at Rock Lititz Pod 2 by the Chiefs and Duane and Duane's role in completing many pre-plans for them in recent months.

**Rothsville** – Greg Young reported that they have had a high call volume recently, including a house fire and several bad crashes, including one fatality. He stressed that through joint training and great cooperation among the WESC agencies, these incidents went very well. The fire company also had two junior firefighters join recently, both sons of current officers, and two suppression-level firefighters. He continues to have a concern with the lack of fire police in the area, citing a recent example of calling for help from three fire companies and getting only one person to respond. Greg also stated that they plan to research the purchase of a gear washer and dryer this year. Sam Young shared that they will be having a breakfast on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 6am-10am at the fire station.

**Warwick Ambulance** – Frank Kenavan shared that their call volume was up in 2016 due to an increase in staffing and properly managing the staffing levels. He also said that they will be pursuing an Advanced EMT program in the coming year. They intend to possibly replace their Medic squad this year.

**Northwest EMS** – Mike Flynn shared that the unit in Brickerville responded to 616 calls between May 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. For the entire Northwest EMS agency, they only missed .02% of over 8,000 calls in 2016. Mike also stated that they will be replacing an Ambulance this year and spoke about the Department of Health's requirement to include a load system in each rig, which will add \$7,000 to the cost of the ambulance.

**Rothsville Ambulance** – Jim Hoover said they recently brought in a new EMT to their staff. He pointed out that they had a slower year in 2016 compared to 2015 due to running less cover calls to Warwick and Ephrata. They are currently hosting an Emergency Medical Responder class of six students, in which they anticipate adding three new volunteers who are taking the class. They also plan to replace an ambulance in the coming year.

**Elizabeth Township** – Brian Wiker gave his appreciation to all the agencies who have provided additional help into the township in the past year and thanked Northwest EMS for their service to the community as well.

**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.

Sam Young brought up for discussion the need to provide Duane with a radio call sign since there are times that he could arrive at a scene first or for other purposes. After a lengthy discussion with several ideas, it was decided that the Duane should discuss the topic with the Chiefs and in the meantime, it will be left up to each individual fire chief at each company if he is provided a call sign for that fire company.

With no other business, Frank Kenavan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Greg Young and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Next meeting is **March 20<sup>th</sup> at Brunnerville Fire Station at 6pm.**

Minutes submitted by Duane Ober, January 20, 2017.