

Minutes of October 15, 2018 WESC Meeting, held at Rothsville Fire Station.

In Attendance: Scott Barr, Sonny Ebersole, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Jim Hoover, Edna Kline, Rodney May, Lynn Mearig, Duane Ober, Ron Oettel, Mike Smith, Dennis Strauss, Brian Wiker, Greg Young, Sam Young and Dan Zimmerman.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Brian Wiker at 6:05pm.

The meeting began with a short presentation by Rob Brady, the consultant providing the fire feasibility report for WESC. Rob reported that he has spent a lot of time in direct interviews with members of WESC companies and others from the community. He stated that he has heard a lot of positive, respectful comments. He pointed out that WESC is on the edge of moving forward and that our members recognize that. On November 5th, he will present his report to WESC and its members. He plans to highlight a “Cliff notes” version of the total report, and that he will provide the full document to Dan electronically to be distributed to everyone. The presentation should take less than 2 hours and will provide an opportunity for feedback from the audience. His report will have objectives for WESC over the next 3-4 years.

Treasurer’s Report: Andy Greiner reviewed the 2018 budget, as of October 5, 2018. Sam Young made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Ron Oettel and passed.

Previous Minutes: Andy Greiner made a motion to approve the July 2018 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Sam Young and approved.

Unfinished Business

Earned Income Tax / Property Tax Relief – We continued the discussion about the tax credit for the volunteers. Warwick Township and Elizabeth Township would only consider the Earned Income Tax (EIT) due to low or no municipal tax, while Lititz Borough is also considering a tax credit for municipal tax. The EIT credit is a flat rate and it was decided that \$100 is a fair value. It was decided that members must be an active member for the full duration of the eligibility time frame (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) and must meet at least one of the following: respond to 15 calls or participate in at least 15 EMS Duty Shifts during the eligibility period; or spend a minimum of 15 hours on administrative and other support services, including, but not limited to: fundraising; providing financial or equipment maintenance; financial bookkeeping; fire prevention and public education; or other events or projects that aid the financial viability, emergency response or operational readiness of a volunteer fire company during the eligibility period. After discussion, Andy Greiner made a motion to adopt the Sample Resolution and send our recommendation to the municipalities; seconded by Ron Oettel and approved. Andy Greiner also made a motion to set the tax credit amount at \$100; seconded by Ron Oettel and approved.

Duane will edit the sample Resolutions and Definitions and forward to the municipalities.

Fire Services Feasibility Study – Duane reminded everyone that Rob’s presentation will be held at Brick Gables, Monday, November 5th at 7pm. There will be light refreshments available, starting at 6:30pm. There is room for fire apparatus to park at Brick Gables and all members are encouraged to attend. It is open to the public.

New Business

Andy reviewed the 2019 proposed Budget with everyone. The higher costs under the Preplanning / Prevention category is to purchase a fire extinguisher training simulator and to purchase signs for labeling existing fire department connections and sprinkler control valve rooms on buildings in the community that don't have them yet. The training simulator cost can be offset with a 50% Municipal Assistance Program grant. Total 2019 budget will be just below \$136,000. Ron Oettel made a motion to conditionally approve the budget based on the revisions suggested; seconded by Sam Young and passed.

Discussion was held about our 2019 meeting schedule, including returning to an every-other month schedule due to the probability that the fire study results will provide objectives for us to work on. If no business is scheduled for a meeting, it can always be cancelled. Ron Oettel made a motion to hold the bi-monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month, at 6:30pm, beginning on January 3, 2019; seconded by Andy Greiner and approved. The following dates will be the 2019 meeting dates: January 3rd at Lititz Fire Company, March 7th at Brunnerville Fire Company; May 2nd at Brickerville Fire Company; July 11th at Warwick Ambulance; September 5th at Rothsville Fire Company; and November 7th at Lititz Fire Company.

Duane advised that there will be a meeting on Monday, December 3rd with the fire chiefs (and others who want to be there) and representatives from UPMC and Heartlands Medical Center to review our medical exams for our members. The meeting will start at 7pm at Lititz Fire Station.

The members then discussed the process and results of Duane's annual performance review and 2019 Objectives. Dan Zimmerman explained how the process will take place each year, with feedback from the fire and EMS leaders to the elected officials on the Board, who will then use the comments to evaluate Duane and create the Objectives. The Board will then review the Objectives with the WESC Board to discuss and approve them. Additions to the Objectives were for Duane to provide monthly updates to the entire Board, plan and review a severe weather emergency exercise, and work with local leaders to create a housing assistance program. Andy Greiner made a motion to accept the Objectives as written, with additions that could be added throughout the year; Greg Young seconded the motion and it was approved.

Open Comments

Brickerville – Dennis Strauss stated that they recently had a successful chicken barbeque. The fire company is currently looking at purchasing a Brush / Attack truck. They have placed an order for a battery powered Amkus spreader and cutter.

Brunnerville – Lynn Mearig reported that they had a good turkey dinner fund raiser, nearly selling out. Also, the Squad replacement committee is on hold until the fire study report is finalized.

Lititz – Ron Oettel reported that Lancaster Countywide Communications might have found a solution for voice paging, using the current P25 radio system. The pagers cost around \$650 each. An update on the use of these pagers will be made at the December Chiefs Assn. meeting.

Ron also reported that the fire station was updated with a new apparatus bay floor and paint.

Rothsville – Sam Young reported that Rothsville just had a breakfast, and that this will be his last WESC meeting since he is retiring as Fire Chief at the end of the year. Sam was thanked for his 30 years of being the Fire Chief at Rothsville Volunteer Fire Company.

Rothsville Ambulance – Jim Hoover reported that their new ambulance is in the station, just waiting on an issue with the registration of it with the Health Federation to be taken care of.

Northwest EMS – Edna Kline reported that the NWEMS call volume has been holding steady this year.

Warwick Township – Dan Zimmerman reported that Warwick Twp. Municipal Authority is working to update their hydrant map for the entire township and are planning to do a water flow analysis in the northern part of the township.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. Next meeting will be Thursday, January 3rd at Lititz Fire Station.

Minutes submitted by Duane Ober, October 30, 2018