

Minutes of June 1, 2020 WESC Meeting, held at Lititz Fire Station.

In Attendance: Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Aaron Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Rodney May, Lynn Mearig, Zach Miller, Duane Ober, Mike Smith, Dennis Strauss, Chris Strayer, Jeff Tennis, Brian Wiker, Greg Young, and Dan Zimmerman.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Andy Greiner at 7:00pm.

Guest: Jimmy Fannin, Chief Chaplain of the Lancaster County Chaplain Corps, was present to speak about the services that his group offers to emergency service agencies. They mostly assist at major fires and other critical incidents. Their slogan is “Serving those who serve”; they provide drinks and snacks to the first responders, as well as offering compassion and support during tragic incidents, for the first responders and the victim’s families. Jimmy would like to offer the services of the Chaplain Corps to the WESC agencies and would ask that a Memorandum of Understanding be signed with WESC so that his team has authorization to respond and assist us. He also provided a packet of information to everyone about the Chaplain Corps. The Board will discuss action under New Business.

Treasurer’s Report: The current year-to-date budget was reviewed. Jeff Garner made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report; seconded by Jeff Tennis and passed.

Previous Minutes: Mike Smith made a motion to approve the February 2020 Minutes as presented (there was no April meeting); seconded by Frank Kenavan and passed.

Unfinished Business

Tax Credit for Volunteers – Duane reported the following update on the tax credits for the volunteers: Elizabeth Township has not received any applications from volunteers yet, so no tax credits have been paid; Lititz Borough has paid \$2,000 (10 Lititz firefighters); and Warwick Township has paid \$8,200 (6 Brunnerville firefighters, 7 Lititz firefighters, 24 Rothsville firefighters, and 4 Rothsville ambulance volunteers).

Apparatus Replacement Plan – Duane reviewed the details of the apparatus plans. A document showing the needed financial contributions from Warwick Township and Lititz Borough between 2020 and 2031 to fund the plan for fire apparatus and ambulances was reviewed. A funding model for Elizabeth Township and Brickerville Fire Company was not available yet. A second document showing the timeline and estimated cost of apparatus replacement was also reviewed. Duane then reviewed the highlights and benefits of the proposed apparatus replacement and funding plan.

Afterwards, all the Fire Chiefs and Frank Kenavan shared their current efforts that are taking place, relative to the plan. Mike Smith reported that Lititz Fire Company has placed an order with Whitmoyer Ford for a new F350 with a contractor body on it to be used for a Squad. The Squad is expected to arrive in late 2020. He also shared that they signed a contract with Fire Line Equipment for a new fire engine, which is expected to be finished by late Spring 2021. By purchasing the Squad and Engine, they will add a fire suppression unit (engine), not replace the Rescue, and then use their current Engine as a back-up Engine for another 10 years. This will also allow them to better be equipped to handle special events in town by having two fire suppression units.

Lynn Mearig spoke that Brunnerville is getting prices to buy the Lititz Rescue, and have it modified to install an air compressor and fill station, so that the region has the capability to fill air cylinders at incidents. They will also be able to carry their additional rescue equipment on this unit, replacing their current Squad.

Greg Young reported that his department has been researching buying a used fire engine to replace their 1994 engine, to save money, as compared to purchasing a new unit. However, to buy a used unit newer than their

2009 engine, they found that the opportunities are rare and if units are found, they were costing \$350,000+. Fire Line Equipment has built a demonstrator fire engine that Rothsville members have looked at a few times and it is equipped sufficiently for their needs. With a few additional upgrades, the total cost is close to \$520,000, nearly \$100,000 less than the cost of their current engine that they bought in 2009. The membership needs to vote on the purchase but Greg feels very confident that the membership supports buying this unit because it will meet their needs, save a lot of time in committee meetings, and the unit would be available for ownership in late summer.

Dennis Strauss reported that Brickerville is looking to replace their 1997 Squad with a new one later this year, if possible. They intend to replace their Engine in 2024 when it will be 20 years old, followed by their Tanker a few years after that (which would be close to 35 years old at that time).

Frank Kenavan reported that Warwick Ambulance has three main ambulances, two are 2009 units and one 2010. Their plan is to begin to update each of these units by buying a new chassis and have the box refurbished and reused. The first will begin shortly and the other two will be done over the next few years, mainly due to recent repairs that have been done to extend their service life. The cost to refurbish these units is about half the cost of replacing with a new unit. Their 2017 ambulance is still serving them well.

Municipal Service Contract - After each agency provided their immediate plans for apparatus replacement, Duane then reviewed the Service Contract that we intend to create between each municipality, and the fire companies and ambulance agencies. Most of the requirements in the Service Contract are already taking place right now, but not formalized. The only level of contract that is in place right now is the Resolution by each municipality stating which fire companies they recognize. The Service Contract would clearly state the requirements expected from each partner to stabilize future years of providing support and emergency services coverage.

New Business

Amended Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement & WESC Bylaws – Duane reviewed the Agreement and Bylaws that Rob Brady drafted for us. He noted on the documents the similarities and differences between the existing Agreement and the new amended one. Duane asked for input on the two documents before our August WESC meeting so that the updates can be made, discussed and approved, if ready. Then, the next step would be to take them to the municipalities for review by their Solicitors.

One note of discussion was to remove the Executive Committee from both documents, and to insert that the Fire Commissioner directly reports to the Warwick Township Manager, since Warwick Township is the employer and the Manager is a full-time employee, not a volunteer on the WESC Board.

Approval of the Provided Apparatus Plan – Mike Smith made a motion to adopt the proposed Apparatus Replacement and Funding Plan as presented at this meeting; Lynn Mearig seconded the motion and it passed. The plan will be attached at the end of these Minutes. The next step is for the elected officials to take it to their Boards for approval and adoption.

Moving forward, Lynn Mearig made a motion for WESC to endorse the following purchases:

- Lititz FC – new Squad and new Engine (under contract)
- Brunnerville – purchasing Rescue from Lititz
- Rothsville – new Engine
- Brickerville – new Squad
- Warwick EMS – re-chassis one ambulance (under contract)

The motion was seconded by Greg Young and passed.

Dennis Strauss made a motion to allow Duane to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chaplain Corps, on behalf of the WESC agencies, to provide assistance at incidents; seconded by Mike Smith and passed.

Comments from Agencies

Brickerville - Denny reported that their Bingo has been canceled due to COVID-19 and will be a large financial loss for them in 2020 if it remains shut down.

Brunnerville – Lynn Mearig reported that their building addition is nearly completed. They also purchased a used 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe from the Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department for use as a Duty Vehicle.

Lititz – Mike Smith reported that their focus so far this year has been getting the new Squad and Engine ordered. Mike also shared that the Craft Show and Car Show have been cancelled this year, and other events in Lititz Borough later in the year might be cancelled as well.

Rothsville – Greg Young reported that they also purchased a used 2013 Ford Interceptor from NLCRPD for use by their members for training and their duty officer program.

Warwick Ambulance – Frank Kenavan reported that their new 2020 Ford F150 is in service by their EMS Chief. He also stated that their subscription drive is going very well this year. He asked for other agencies to consider promoting lawn mower safety on their social media pages during June; they have had two incidents resulting in serious injuries recently. Lastly, Frank reported that the Beer Fest is likely to be cancelled this year due to PennDOT not approving road closures due to COVID-19.

NWEMS – Duane reported that NWEMS had a Line of Duty Death this past weekend of a paramedic who suffered a cardiac arrest while on an incident. Details about the funeral and services will be provided soon.

With no further business, Frank Kenavan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Lynn Mearig. The meeting ended at 8:30pm.

Next meeting is August 3, 2020 at Rothsville Fire Station.

Minutes submitted by Duane Ober, June 3, 2020.