



Warwick Emergency Services Commission

Minutes of June 7, 2021 WESC Meeting, held at Rothsville Fire Station.

In Attendance: Justin Cracroft, Sonny Ebersol, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Aaron Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Lynn Mearig, Rodney May, Zach Miller, Duane Ober, Mike Smith, Dennis Strauss, Jeff Tennis, Elijah Yearick, Greg Young, John Zeswitz, and Dan Zimmerman.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Tennis at 6:35pm.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Greiner reviewed the budget and the current year-to-date figures. Commissioner Ober reported that Lititz Fire Company made a \$2,150 payment towards the budget to cover Retention fees from buying gift cards in January. The Retention category will most likely exceed the budgeted amount, but the donation category will also exceed anticipated funds. The current budget was approved as presented.

Previous Minutes: Greg Young made a motion to approve the February 2021 meeting minutes; seconded by Frank Kenavan, and approved. (April 2021 meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items)

Unfinished Business

Update on Tax Credits Paid to Volunteers – Elizabeth Township has paid one volunteer \$200 (from Brickerville Fire Company); Lititz Borough has paid \$1,600 (8 volunteers from Lititz Fire Company); and Warwick Township has paid (\$8,000 – 10 volunteers at Brunnerville Fire Company, 6 volunteers at Lititz Fire Company, 3 volunteers with Rothsville Ambulance, and 21 volunteers with Rothsville Fire Company. Total tax credits paid in WESC region so far is \$9,800 (49 volunteers).

Hiring of Part-time Emergency Services Assistant – Commissioner Ober reviewed that there were 10 applicants for the position. Two candidates were selected to be interviewed. Pat Barrett, Jeff Tennis and Commissioner Ober interviewed both candidates, and Brett Fassnacht was selected to be the endorsed candidate for the position. Brett is a volunteer firefighter with Lafayette Fire Company, a part-time firefighter with Manheim Township Fire Recue and works full-time at Lancaster Countywide Communications as a Fire Services Support Coordinator. Brett's training accomplishments exceed the suppression-level requirements that we have in place.

Brett has been offered a position, pending approval from the WESC Board. He will earn \$18/hour and will work an average of 16 hours per week, with the base hours being Monday 1-9pm and Friday 8-4pm. Brett will assist Commissioner Ober with WESC-related tasks and will normally work at either Brickerville Fire Station or at Brunnerville Fire Station, but will occasionally be needed to assist elsewhere, while remaining available for calls. Chief Young has

offered the use of their second duty vehicle to Brett until Squad 21-1 is replaced and made available for daily use by Brett. Brickerville Fire Company has ordered a new set of firefighting gear (PPE) for Brett, while the other three companies have been asked to provide additional gear, as needed. Brett's daily clothing / uniforms will be ordered and paid for under the WESC budget. An additional cell phone has been added to the WESC plan for Brett.

Lynn Mearig made a motion to hire Brett Fassnacht as the WESC Emergency Services Assistant, seconded by Aaron Hoover and passed.

New Business

Commissioner Ober reviewed the hiring of a part-time firefighter at Brickerville Fire Company. Brickerville recognized the need for additional daytime staffing to properly staff apparatus during the day. In addition to the WESC part-time employee, this will provide three days of coverage to help with staffing. Kim Herskowitz was hired to work on Thursdays, to assist with daytime staffing and a variety of tasks around the station, such as apparatus and equipment checks, cleaning and minor maintenance of apparatus, station cleaning, and other duties as assigned by the Fire Chief. Kim exceeds our local suppression-level requirements, has experience driving apparatus, and has a lot of experience in fire safety education. Kim's was hired by Northwest EMS as a firefighter, with Brickerville paying NWEMS her wages and administrative fees. She started June 3rd.

Commissioner Ober explained the agreement of the four fire chiefs to pursue a mandatory requirement that all new volunteers either join with previous firefighting experience or commit to completing a minimum of Modules 1 and 2 of the Essentials program as soon as possible. This applies to all new volunteers, even those who only want to be a driver. Regionally, we want to be focused on having well-trained firefighters, and that starts with providing clear expectations of their position in the fire company before they agree to volunteer.

Commissioner Ober reviewed the online training program that the four fire companies have purchased for their members, which WESC has paid for the implementation of it. The online training provides 30 to 60 minute training courses that can assigned to the members to complete. This will be especially helpful for new members, as they are introduced to the fire service, as well as for experienced members to refresh on topics.

Commissioner Ober also brought up for discussion the value of designating the Fire Chiefs for the role of regional chiefs, to assist mutual aid fire companies when leadership staffing is low, due to work schedules, vacations, etc. The importance is to have experienced leaders managing large or complex incidents in the WESC region instead of lower-ranked officers, just because the chief officers of that fire district are not present. It was suggested that the Fire Chiefs explain this need to their membership, so they clearly understand the benefit of it.

This led into discussion about the need to look at strategic and succession planning at each agency. Discussion of creating a subcommittee within WESC to meet and begin discussions on this topic. Suggestions to perform a SWOT analysis (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-

Threats) of each agency was made. This analysis is different than the 2018 Fire Study of WESC – this is designed to take a close look at each agency, to help keep each one strong, or prepare for anticipated concerns. Commissioner Ober will initiate the creation of a subcommittee.

Comments from Agencies

Brickerville – Hiring of part-time employee that was discussed earlier.

Brunnerville – Lynn Mearig reported that they are continuing to work on getting the Rescue they bought from Lititz placed into service. They also have a committee formed to look at the next phase for building renovations.

Lititz – Mike Smith reported that 4th of July Fireworks will take place and help from each of the WESC agencies is needed. The new Engine has arrived, and it is at the dealer getting equipment mounted on it. The fire company also just recently had their front concrete ramp redone, including heated coils to help with snow and ice. He thanked the elected officials for their support of the apparatus plan to allow projects like this to get accomplished.

Rothsville – Greg Young thanked everyone who assisted at his uncle Craig’s funeral.

Warwick Ambulance – Frank Kenavan reported that their subscription drive is going well. His staff recently was involved in assisting with delivering two babies. He reported that his agency could use more paramedics, but it is an issue throughout the region. Frank also explained the situation of placing a Medic vehicle closer to Rothsville to help reduce response time. This caused some issues with Rothsville Ambulance personnel, but a meeting was held between their staffing and EMS Chief Chris Buchmoyer to address the concerns.

Rothsville Ambulance – Justin Cracraft explained that the ambulance recently applied for a grant through the Ambulance Association of PA, with a goal of receiving funds that can be put towards the replacement of one of their ambulances.

Lititz Borough – Elijah Yearick gave an update on construction projects in the borough: On East Main Street, sidewalks are done, the storm sewers are being worked on, but they have run into some issues with gas lines. North Water Street water line replacement will have detours beginning in July. The Cedar Street bridge will be replaced, beginning in late July or early August. Paving in all three of these areas will now be in 2022, possibly even in 2023. The Rotary Club Craft Show has been approved by PennDOT and Borough Council and will occur on Saturday, August 14th.

Warwick Township – Dan Zimmerman stated the Lincoln Road bridge replacement will begin on June 24th, with detours in place prior to that. Due to the detours, Carpenter Road will be permanently closed since the bridge is in poor condition. Dan mentioned that Warwick Township is considering other vendors for Workers Compensation for the firefighters and ambulance personnel in 2022, since SWIF continues to raise rates. Regarding Dan’s retirement, Dan stated

the plan is to have a successor in place by Fall. Lastly, he reported that the Board is very appreciative of remaining informed about our efforts, such as the year-end report from 2020.

John Zeswitz –Thanked everyone in WESC and reminded everyone of the saying that “great things can happen when it doesn’t matter who gets credit for it.”

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Next meeting is August 2nd at Lititz Fire Station at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Fire Commissioner Duane Ober, June 14, 2021.