



# Warwick Emergency Services Commission

**Minutes of April 4, 2022 WESC Meeting**, held at Rothsville fire station.

**In Attendance:** Chris Buchmoyer, Justin Cracroft, Brett Fassnacht, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Brian Harris, Aaron Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Edna Kline, Rodney May, Zach Miller, Duane Ober, Keith Rothermel, Mike Smith, Dennis Strauss, Chris Strayer, Jeff Tennis, Greg Young, John Zeswitz and 7 visitors.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Tennis at 6:30pm.

**Treasurer's Report:** Andy Greiner reviewed the year-to-date budget. Justin Cracroft made a motion to accept the report as presented; seconded by Chris Buchmoyer and approved.

**Previous Minutes:** A correction is needed to Mike Diehl's name under the Reorganization information. With that correction, the Minutes were approved as presented.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Leadership Succession Planning / Continuity Plans:** Held at the end of the Open Comments part of the meeting, Board Member John Zeswitz led an open discussion on Continuity and Strategic Planning. Those in attendance spoke about concerns of staffing (recruitment, retention, training, available housing, leadership planning, etc.), funding concerns, service to community, and the growth of WESC. Additional discussion about strategic initiatives and developing characteristics and skills necessary for properly selecting leaders in the future are critical to creating core values of the organizations.

**False Alarm Ordinances and Fee Schedule** – Duane reported that no real progress has been made since the February meeting. He is also trying to work more with property owners directly to solve the issues of fire alarm activations.

## **New Business**

Lititz Fire Chief Mike Smith presented information to the Board about their process to replace their ladder truck. After visiting the E-One plant in Florida two weeks ago to collect more research for the design of the ladder truck, the fire company is waiting on updated specifications and pricing for the new truck. The current lead time for building a new ladder truck is 600 days (at least 20 months). The fire company has decided to pursue replacing their current 2005 ladder truck with a rear-mounted, single-axle, 100 ft. ladder truck, with no pump. The new truck will be about 10 feet shorter than the existing ladder truck, with a smaller wheelbase, making it easier to maneuver for the drivers. The new vehicle will also be 25,000 pounds lighter. The current ladder truck will be sold; the anticipated resale value is unknown, but most likely below \$100,000.

Mike Smith made a motion asking for approval to continue to move forward with the ordering of the new ladder truck, as it is included in the apparatus replacement plan. Aaron Hoover seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

### **Comments from Agencies**

**Brickerville** – Keith Rothermel reported that four firefighters from the fire company will be attending live fire training on April 9<sup>th</sup> with Brunnerville and Rothsville firefighters at the Berks County Fire School.

**Brunnerville** – Jeff Garner reported that station renovations continue to take place. He thanked everyone on behalf of Chief Mearig for their assistance at a recent barn fire.

**Lititz** – Mike Smith reported that 25 members attended a live fire training at Berks County Fire School last weekend, 3 firefighters were at a weekend class at the State Fire Academy, 2 firefighters were in an Exterior Firefighter class at the Training Center, and 2 members stayed in town on Saturday to be on standby for fire calls.

**Rothsville** – Greg Young reported that operations at a recent house fire in January went very well, as did a recent accident with entrapment on Creek Road. Rothsville has about 8 firefighters attending the live fire training in Berks County on April 9<sup>th</sup> also.

**Warwick Ambulance** – Chris Buchmoyer reported that they are seeking to replace one of their ambulances. They recently hosted a Winter Continuing Education event, which was attended by 50 people. Lastly, he reported on the new Intermediate Unit dispatch protocols that will go into effect on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are 18 medical dispatches that an Intermediate ambulance (with Advanced EMT) can be dispatched to respond to instead of a paramedic being dispatched, but only in the first due of the agencies that are using Intermediate ambulances.

**Rothsville Ambulance** – Justin Cracroft reported that a new power load unit was installed in their Ford ambulance, to assist with loading the stretchers, and was funded by a grant. They are also planning to apply for one of the Act 10 grants of 2022. Justin added that they are planning to host an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course in the Fall.

**Northwest EMS** – Edna Kline reported that the Brickerville unit responded to 75 calls in March. NWEMS is working to replace all tablets in their ambulances with new ones. She also commented on the Intermediate ambulance situation, explaining that some employees are in the Advanced EMT class right now, which could see the Brickerville unit being staffed as an Intermediate ambulance more frequently.

**Elizabeth Township** – Rodney May reported that Hopeland Road is closed for a bridge replacement over Furnace Run and is anticipated to be completed by June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lititz Borough** – Duane read a report that Elijah Yearick provided to him – Cedar Street bridge replacement is occurring now and is planned to be completed by the start of the school year, but he expects it to run into the Fall. The start date for paving of Route 772 hasn't been made public yet but should be starting soon. The 200 block of South Spruce Street is closed for four months for a complete water main replacement. Lastly, UGI is working in the Borough to inspect their gas lines and to make repairs where needed.

**Warwick Township** – Brian Harris reported that Warwick Township is working with Lititz Borough and Elizabeth Township on an update to the regional comprehensive plan. A park dedication in honor of Logan Myers will take place on April 6<sup>th</sup> at Riparian Park. Warwick Township also applied for grant that will involve improvements to the pump station on Market Street, a one-million-gallon water tank in the northern part of the township, and improvements to the intersection of Newport Road and Brunnerville Road. They have also applied for a grant for installing sidewalks on the east side of Route 501, north of the Lititz Borough line.

**John Zeswitz** praised the recent articles in the Lititz Record about WESC updates at the municipal meetings.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next meeting is June 6th at Lititz Fire Station, starting at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Fire Commissioner Duane Ober, April 7, 2022.