



Warwick Emergency Services Commission

Minutes of October 3, 2022 WESC Meeting, held at Brickerville Fire Station.

In Attendance (20): Chris Buchmoyer, Justin Cracroft, Mike Diehl, Eli Ebersol, Brett Fassnacht, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Brian Harris, Aaron Hoover, James, Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Rodney May, Lynn Mearig, Duane Ober, Keith Rothermel, Mike Smith, Dennis Strauss, Jeff Tennis, Greg Young, and John Zeswitz.

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

Treasurer's Report: Duane Ober reviewed the year-to-date budget. Frank Kenavan made a motion to accept the report as presented; seconded by Jeff Garner and approved.

Previous Minutes: Mike Smith made a motion to accept the June 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented (there was no August meeting); seconded by Lynn Mearig and approved.

Unfinished Business

Volunteer Tax Credit: Duane gave an update on the tax credits paid to-date: Elizabeth Twp. – 0; Lititz Borough – 8 (Lititz firefighters); Warwick Twp. – 53 (7 Brunnerville firefighters, 7 Rothsville Ambulance volunteers, 29 Rothsville firefighters, and 10 Lititz firefighters). Total tax credit paid in the region: \$12,200.

Leadership Succession Planning / Continuity Plans: John Zeswitz gave a presentation about the input that he received after meeting with seven of the local emergency services leaders. He provided observations from the feedback, as well as recommendations for the emergency services leaders as we move forward.

EMS Authority: No one from NWEMS was present for an update, but Mike Diehl from Elizabeth Township gave a brief update and stated that Elizabeth Township has not made a final decision yet.

New Business

2023 Meeting Dates and Locations: Duane provided the following dates and locations for the 2023 meetings: 2/6/23 at Rothsville Fire Station; 4/3/23 at Lititz Fire Station; 6/5/23 at Brunnerville Fire Station; 8/7/23 at Brickerville Fire Station; 10/2/23 at Warwick Ambulance Station; and 12/4/23 at Rothsville Fire Station.

Proposed 2023 WESC Budget: Duane reviewed the proposed 2023 WESC Budget, showing a slight increase in the costs of employee benefits and a reduced operating budget. Jeff Garner made a motion to accept the draft budget as proposed; seconded by Aaron Hoover and approved.

Growth of WESC / Next Steps: Duane presented his plans for the addition of a Deputy Fire Commissioner role to help with the forward-moving momentum of WESC. He shared that he feels it is imperative that a stronger leadership team gets put into place as we plan for the future of the local emergency services. Greg Young spoke in support of the added role, one that he envisions helping with on-boarding of new volunteers at all the fire stations, coordination of training activities and scheduling classes for new volunteers and helping to manage the volunteers. Mike Diehl and Jeff Tennis both pointed out that we need to have a continuity plan in place for WESC, and to help in case of a change in Duane's status; Jeff Garner agreed with the need for a WESC Continuity Plan; Andy Greiner spoke in favor of the need for the role and asked Duane to work on a job description and to report back; John Zeswitz shared that the continuity plan for WESC should create the foundation, knowing that we need to trust each other. He reassured us that healthy conflict leads to commitment, as opposed to resistant compliance. Justin Cracroft advised everyone of Duane's support to their growing need for assistance. No one spoke against the idea to create a Deputy Fire Commissioner role, so Duane was asked to continue working on the idea.

Comments from Agencies

Brickerville FC – Dennis Strauss reported that they will hold a chicken BBQ on October 22nd. They have also met recently to discuss replacing Engine 21-1.

Brunnerville FC – Lynn Mearig advised their fundraising dinner two days was a success. The fire station renovations are nearing completion, with a few issues that still need to be addressed. They currently have 3 members enrolled in the Essentials program at the Training Center.

Lititz FC – Mike Smith reported that their fund drive is going well. They just sent their second mailing and will do another one later in the year. They have been busy lately with calls and the turnout of volunteers has been very good.

Rothsville FC – Greg Young said their fund drive was just mailed three weeks ago. They have a breakfast on October 8th. They are adding gym space in open space in their apparatus bay. The cost of the equipment will be partially funded by this year's state grant, with the balance from their Relief Association.

Warwick Ambulance – Frank Kenavan reported their subscription mailer is about 10% ahead of last year's income, but still on track for only 28-29% support. He stated a new paramedic and EMT will begin as employees this week. Their new 2023 Ford Chassis will arrive in mid-October and the remounting of the body from a former ambulance should be finished in January.

Rothsville Ambulance – Jim Hoover reported that their new Ambulance is being finished in Pittsburgh and will be delivered on October 21st. They have one new volunteer taking an EMT class right now. Corey Gossert, their full-time employee from Wellspan, will be leaving to take a position with Christiana Ambulance. They will begin the hiring process shortly to find his replacement.

Elizabeth Township – No report.

Lititz Borough – Andy spoke of his concern of having enough volunteers in the future and stressed the need to educate the elected officials of the need to start preparing now. Brian Harris gave an update on the East Main Street and Water Street construction projects. He advised that the current timeline for North Cedar Street to be opened is the first week of November.

Warwick Township – Brian Harris stated that the local governments will be updating regional comprehensive plan and there will be focus on emergency services included in the plan. He also advised that the 6th Street extension by Siegrist Farm Road will have a base course installed, but will not be opened this year, most likely in Spring 2023. The 6th Street project at West Orange Street will not have final paving until the Spring also. The Orchard Road housing development will require a closure of Orchard Road for about 3-4 weeks; a detour plan is being worked on and will be shared once it is known. The Walton Hill housing development, off West Woods Drive, has been delayed. He shared that the Warwick Township budget process has started and will be adopted in December.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Next meeting is December 5, 2022 at Warwick Ambulance Station, starting at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Fire Commissioner Duane Ober, October 24, 2022.