



# Warwick Emergency Services Commission

**Minutes of June 5, 2023 WESC Meeting**, held at Brunnerville Fire Station.

**In Attendance (19):** Justin Cracraft, Mike Diehl, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Aaron Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Edna Kline, Rodney May, Lynn Mearig, Zach Miller, Duane Ober, Keith Rothermel, Mike Smith, Jeff Strauss, Chris Strayer, Jeff Tennis, Elijah Yearick, Greg Young and John Zeswitz.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Andy Greiner at 6:30pm.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeff Tennis reviewed the 2023 year-to-date financial report. Justin Cracraft made a motion to accept the year-to-date report, seconded by Jeff Garner, and approved.

**Previous Minutes:** Mike Diehl made a motion to accept the February 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented (there was no April meeting); seconded by Lynn Mearig and approved.

**Fire Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Ober presented on several topics including: paperwork has been submitted to the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to get WESC recognized as a municipal fire department, with intentions to be eligible for the annual state grant program; a meeting with Rock Med, who specializes in occupational medicine, will take place this week to secure a program to continue our firefighter physicals with them; a review of the medical incident at the woods fire on Route 322 on May 25<sup>th</sup>; an update on reaching out to Warwick Ministerium to see if the local churches would be interested in forming a response team to help with flooded basements; West Earl Township using the WESC tax credit program as a template for their program; and a review of the pending countywide burn ban to go into effect later in the week.

**Deputy Fire Commissioner's Report:** Deputy Fire Commissioner Smith gave an update on the following topics: Special Events summaries to be distributed to the first responders; a process to have similar on-boarding of new volunteers at each fire company; efforts to schedule Firefighter 1 certification for several volunteers who are prepared to test; scheduling of an EVOC and Pumps Ops 1 class in the near future; Lititz Fire Company is buying two new duty vehicles due to providing one for the Deputy Fire Commissioner role and planned replacement of another; working with Lititz Borough to create a burn ordinance similar in language to Warwick Township's; and finally, a thank you to everyone for their support during the first two months of serving as the Deputy Fire Commissioner.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Deputy Fire Commissioner role:** Commissioner Ober reported that this topic was still included in the Agenda due to the role being approved in February, but there was no meeting in April. Deputy Fire Commissioner Smith started in this position on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and has been a huge help to the workload, both administratively and operationally.

## **New Business**

**20232 Fire and EMS Statistics:** Commissioner Ober reviewed fire and ambulance statistics from January to May 2023. Discussion among the Board was held concerning the information and statistics that will be best used to determine the need to hire paid firefighters.

## **Comments from Agencies**

**Brickerville FC** – No report.

**Brunnerville FC** – Lynn Mearig gave an update on the building renovations at the fire station.

**Lititz FC** – Zach Miller reported that he has been elected Fire Chief to replace Mike Smith, and Devin Learn was appointed as Deputy Fire Chief. Zach commented that Mike's change to Deputy Fire Commissioner is going exactly as planned for the fire company and has been a great help to them. Zach also reported on the two duty vehicles being purchased by the fire company.

**Rothsville FC** – Greg Young reported that they just recently had four young firefighter complete the Basic Fire Academy to become interior firefighters. The fire company and ambulance held an Open House in May and the turnout was very well due to the t-ball games being played in the park. A lot of kids and families passed through, and there were some leads for potential new members.

**Warwick Ambulance** – Frank Kenavan reported that Rob Walker has been named their new EMS Chief and will begin full-time on June 12<sup>th</sup>. They have three college students volunteering with the ambulance this summer. They recently hired four new EMT's and will be interviewing for three paramedic positions. Since the last meeting, they placed a new ambulance in service, bringing their fleet to four transport units and a supervisor squad.

**Rothsville Ambulance** – Justin Cracroft reported that an emergency medical responder (EMR) class was recently completed, with four WESC members attending, along with students from Akron and West Earl fire companies. The agency participated in an active shooter drill in Ephrata and as a result, added new response bags on their ambulances, with tourniquets and stop-the-bleed supplies. LCWC representatives attended their March business meeting to review the use of the WebCAD during incidents. The ambulance fund drive is ahead of last year's level of giving, averaging \$109 per donation.

**NWEMS** – Edna Kline reported they placed a new supervisor's squad into service and they have a new interim night shift captain.

**Elizabeth Township** – Mike Diehl reported that several township streets are being oiled and chipped.

**Lititz Borough** – Elijah Yearick reported that East Main Street and Water Street have finally been paved. A few blocks of South Cedar Street has also been paved and parts of Sixth and Seventh Streets will be paved next. A culvert at North Cedar Street and East Lincoln Avenue will be replaced, creating some

detours, but will hopefully be completed in one or two days. The community events season has started and plenty of events are taking place over the next several months. A new construction project for Eagle Building will start soon on East Main Street at North Oak Street, and the Toy Soldier building, now known as the Warwick House, will be renovated to include a 175-seat restaurant, 28 hotel rooms, and a roof top terrace.

**Warwick Township** – Commissioner Ober gave the report for Brian Harris, including East Sixth Street should be milled and paved by the end of June, with the anticipation of the street being opened at Siegrist Farm Road by the first week in July. There are three housing projects getting started: Walton Hill (Tupelo Street extended) with 47 single family homes; West Woods Drive, near the Walton Hill project, with seven single family homes; and Owl Hill Road project with 14 single family homes, in the 600 block of Own Hill Road. Orchard Road is now closed Monday-Friday for infrastructure connections; it will be open every weekend. This project should take about three weeks to complete. West Orange Street will be closed in the area of Pfautz Avenue for about two months, for a culvert replacement.

**Warwick Township Resident John Zeswitz** – John inquired about the regional fire chiefs meetings that have been taking place. John also encouraged everyone to use inviting and proper language when recruiting new volunteers.

Rodney May spoke of a concern about recent comments being made about Elizabeth Township or Brickerville Fire Company leaving WESC, in which he stated neither was true. He would like to have a meeting with the Elizabeth Township Board of Supervisors, Chief Strauss, and Commissioner Ober to discuss the issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. Next meeting is August 7, 2023, at the Brickerville Fire Station, starting at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Fire Commissioner Duane Ober, June 8, 2023.