



Warwick Emergency Services Commission

Minutes of October 2, 2023 WESC Meeting, held at the Warwick Township Municipal Building

In Attendance (23): Mike Diehl, Sonny Ebersol, Brett Fassnacht, Kurt Gardner, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Brian Harris, Aaron Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Edna Kline, Devin Learn, Rodney May, Lynn Mearig, Zach Miller, Duane Ober, Keith Rothermel, Mike Smith, Zach Spadaccia, Jeff Strauss, Chris Strayer, Jeff Tennis, Rob Walker, and Greg Young.

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. Frank Kenavan made a motion to accept the year-to-date report, seconded by Keith Rothermel, and approved.

Previous Minutes: Jeff Tennis made a motion to accept the June 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented (there was no August meeting); seconded by Greg Young and approved.

Fire Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Ober presented on several topics including: highlighting the value of the Deputy Fire Commissioner role, after being off work for 7 weeks following surgery; WESC received approval from the State Fire Commissioner's Office recognizing WESC as a municipal fire company, making WESC eligible for the state grant; still working to create an updated physical process; future tax credit program for volunteers by Lancaster County Commissioners; meeting was held on July 6th between Elizabeth Township supervisors, Fire Commissioner and Brickerville Fire Chief, also attended by Brickerville assistant chiefs and WESC Deputy Fire Commissioner, to discuss the role and responsibilities of the WESC Fire Commissioner; fire prevention activities have started, with a most classes being led by WESC Assistant Fassnacht and the volunteers; gift card program for completing certified training classes is up to \$4,300 to date, with over 2,300 hours spent in classes; Fire Commissioner was asked to serve on the Advisory Board for the Lancaster County Veterans Honor Park; and an update on the number of volunteers present at a house fire in Warwick Township earlier in the day who left work to respond.

Deputy Fire Commissioner's Report: Deputy Fire Commissioner Smith gave an update on the following topics: he assisted with getting several firefighters scheduled to take their Firefighter 1 certification; he scheduled and coordinated the hosting of an emergency vehicle operator course (EVOC) class and a Pump Operations 1 class; he coordinated the purchase of two duty vehicles for the Lititz Fire Company (one of which will be for his use in his WESC role) and scheduled the upfitting of the vehicles; and he began to create an educational presentation about WESC to be shared with municipal officials.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

2024 WESC Meeting schedule – After a discussion on the topic, Greg Young made a motion that all WESC meetings in 2024 will be held at the Warwick Township Municipal Building, beginning at 6:30pm. The motion was seconded by Mike Diehl and approved. The dates for the 2024 meetings will be: February 5th, April 1st, June 3rd, August 5th, October 7th, and December 2nd.

Approval of the 2024 WESC Budget – Commissioner Ober, Greg Young, and Jeff Tennis reviewed the proposed 2024 WESC Budget. The proposed budget for 2024 is \$321,742, with estimated contributions from the following: Elizabeth Township - \$34,771; Lititz Borough - \$88,135; Warwick Township - \$128,271; and Lititz Fire Company - \$30,000 (2nd year of a 5-year commitment). There is also an anticipated income of \$15,000 from the PA State Fire and EMS Grant, and an estimated \$24,000 in residual balance from 2023. Greg Young pointed out that a few line items are not finalized yet, due to waiting on final costs, which will come later (IT services, and misc. benefits). Compared to the 2022 WESC Budget of \$269,266, the increase in costs is due to a full year of salary and benefits for the Deputy Commissioner in 2023. Jeff Tennis made a motion to approve the proposed 2024 WESC Budget, seconded by Lynn Mearig, and approved.

Review of WESC Documents – Fire Commissioner Ober reviewed multiple, previously approved, WESC documents and the language in them, to highlight the expectations of the WESC Board, fire companies and ambulances, and the roles and responsibilities of the Fire Commissioner and Deputy Fire Commissioner. These documents included the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement, each municipal Service Contract for Fire and EMS, Standards of Response Coverage, and the job descriptions for the Fire Commissioner and Deputy Fire Commissioner. Greg Young stated that based on these documents, the Fire Commissioner and Deputy Fire Commissioner should be involved in any large purchases (equipment and apparatus), so that the fire companies avoid unnecessary duplication and to be financially responsible. Deputy Commissioner Smith pointed out how the Lititz Fire Company used data and statistics from past calls to make the decision to change the operating features of their new ladder truck and to save hundreds of thousands of dollars. Andy Greiner stated that the municipalities are relying on WESC to help make sure the money they are contributing is used in the best manner and not wasted. Jeff Tennis also shared that they are looking for accountability when spending the taxpayers money and the services provided. Mike Diehl commented that the reason for the regional partnership is everything that has been said by others.

Ambulance Service in Elizabeth Township – Mike Diehl stated that no final decision has been made yet. They did have two options for coverage, but it just recently went down to one option; Warwick Ambulance withdrew their proposal. He also commented that WESC will have to review the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement once NWEMS no longer exists [becomes Municipal Emergency Services Authority (MESA)]. Warwick Ambulance Chief Rob Walker gave an update on his agency's staffing levels and units in service and provided information about Warwick's proposal (and withdrawal) to serve Elizabeth Township. The contrast in offers for ambulance service in Elizabeth Township is focused on the hours the ambulance will be stationed in Elizabeth Township and costs; NWEMS (MESA) will staff a unit 24/7, while Warwick Ambulance has proposed 6am-10pm, Monday

thru Friday, with balance of time being served by an ambulance responding from their station in Lititz Borough. MESA will charge a fee to every property (average of \$85 / residence), and Warwick would send a voluntary subscription mailer to all properties, in addition to municipal financial support.

Anticipated WESC Board in 2024 – Andy Greiner pointed out that he did not run for re-election on Lititz Borough Council, so he will not be the Lititz Borough representative on the WESC Board next year. The next WESC Board meeting in December will be after the November election, so it was suggested that he bring interested council member(s) to the WESC meeting to gauge their interest in serving. Andy also offered to remain on the WESC Board as the Lititz Borough resident-at-large, if approved.

Comments from Agencies

Brickerville FC – Keith Rothermel shared that they will be having a chicken BBQ fundraiser on October 14th. They have had apparatus meetings recently. The Brickerville Fire Company will be hosting a Basic Fire Academy near the end of the year. They can have up to 40 students in the class, and multiple volunteers from the WESC companies will be participating.

Brunnerville FC – Lynn Mearig thanked everyone for their help with the house fire earlier in the day. They will be having a dinner fundraiser on October 7th, in which they need more help. He also shared that two of his volunteers will be graduating from the Reading Fire Academy this week and will be career Reading City firefighters.

Lititz FC – Zach Miller reported that the two new duty vehicles are in, just waiting for equipment to complete the upfitting, which should be finished by the end of October. Zach also stated that as of now, the new ladder truck's completion date has been pushed to June 2025. The fire company has agreed to the sale of the current ladder truck, with the other company understanding it may be delayed due to time frame of the new ladder truck.

Rothsville FC – Greg Young reported that they will be hosting a breakfast fundraiser on October 14th. They recently added two new junior firefighters but have also lost a younger suppression-level firefighter who recently moved to Cumberland County.

Warwick Ambulance – Frank Kenavan reported that their second mailing for their subscription program just went out and so far this year, the support has been very good. They mailed a business appeal letter this year to help fund radios. Frank also stated that they have an ambulance being remounted to bring their fleet up to five transport ambulances. Frank shared that they are buying the used Lititz duty vehicle to be used as a medic supervisor vehicle.

Rothsville Ambulance – No report.

NWEMS – Edna Kline reported that the Brickerville ambulance ran 71 calls in September, 711 calls YTD. NWEMS is also remounting one ambulance vehicle right now.

Elizabeth Township – Mike Diehl reported that they will be voting on their decision for ambulance coverage at their meeting on October 9th.

Lititz Borough – Elijah Yearick provided a report on the status of the North Cedar Street and East Lincoln Avenue culvert project.

Warwick Township – Brian Harris reported that East 6th Street has been opened to traffic and a traffic study was completed recently, showing the average speed to be 8 mph over the speed limit. The area of Orchard Road near the new development will be milled and paved soon. The water tank project near High's on Furnace Hills Pike has had the deed recorded and construction is most likely to begin in 2025. The culvert project on West Orange Street is completed and the roadway is open. There will be a Santa Domingo flood plain project in which the sewer lines will need to relocate, causing an impact on Route 501, just south of Bombergers. The joint regional strategic plan will hold their next meeting on October 12th at Warwick Middle School at 7pm. There will be a Veterans Day ceremony on Sunday, November 12th at the Lancaster County Veterans Honor Park, next to the Lititz Library, at 2pm.

WESC Assistant Brett Fassnacht spoke about the fire prevention schedule and thanked Brickerville Fire Company for the use of their fire truck for fire prevention in Lititz while other fire companies were operating at the house fire in Brunnerville earlier in the day.

Mike Smith suggested that the December WESC meeting also be held at the Warwick Township Municipal Building and it was agreed by all.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. Next meeting is December 4, 2023, at the Warwick Township Municipal Building, starting at 6:30pm.

Greg Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Keith Rothermel and approved.

Minutes submitted by Fire Commissioner Duane Ober, October 11, 2023.