

**Minutes of November 20, 2017 WESC Meeting**, held at Lititz Fire Station.

**In Attendance:** Justin Auken, Sonny Ebersole, Herb Flosdorf, Mike Flynn, Jeff Garner, Don Hoover, Jim Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Scott Kingsboro, Rodney May, Duane Ober, Keith Rothermel, Mike Smith, Brian Wiker, Greg Young, Sam Young and Dan Zimmerman.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Herb Flosdorf at 6:00pm.

**Treasurer's Report:** Herb reviewed the 2017 year-to-date budget, with no comments. Sam Young made a motion to accept the current budget as shown, seconded by Jeff Garner, and passed.

**Previous Minutes:** Mike Smith made a motion to accept the September 2017 Meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Frank Kenavan and passed.

**Unfinished Business**

**Earned Income Tax / Property Tax Relief** – Duane stated that he sent letters to Senator Aument, Representative Fee and Representative Mentzer expressing our concerns about the tax credits for volunteers and the amount of work involved to track eligibility and compliance.

**Emergency Management Exercise** – Duane reported exercise was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Warwick Township building, with about 30 people in attendance. The exercise consisted of three scenarios, one in each of the municipalities. Incidents focused on the response of the emergency services and how additional entities, such as water authorities, municipal government, local towing companies, etc. were added to the situation. The exercise fulfilled our obligation to use our municipal plans for training purposes, as well as giving credit to each of the municipalities for MS4 training.

**Lititz Record Features** – Duane reported that he has profiles of emergency responders scheduled through February. He will continue to request additional profiles when the need arises.

**Fire Prevention Week Summary** – Duane reported that including two additional visits to John Beck Elementary School by Sam Young and Keith Rothermel, a total of 11 events were provided by WESC members to students in the community during NFPW. A total of 75 personnel participated and spent approx. 125 man-hours in service at the events. Approximately 950 students were directly presented to and with an additional 2,100 students in the Warwick School District, over 3,000 students were reached through our fire safety handouts. The coloring books and fidget spinners were a huge hit among the children.

**New Applicant Update** – Since the September WESC meeting, Lititz Fire Company added a junior firefighter and a new firefighter with no experience, while Rothsville added one experienced firefighter. This brings the 2017 total to 27 new members among the four fire companies.

**New WESC Vehicle** – Duane stated that the vehicle, a 2018 Ford F-150, has been ordered and it is scheduled to be produced during the week of December 11<sup>th</sup>. Warwick Township is funding the cost of the vehicle and any additional costs for the equipment once the current vehicle is sold and the proceeds are applied towards the vehicle equipment. The new vehicle costs \$28,770 and was ordered through Whitmoyer Ford in Mount Joy, through the COSTARS program. Vehicle equipment, including graphics, will cost approximately \$9,000. Expected income from selling the current vehicle is \$7,000.

**2018 WESC Budget** – The 2018 Budget was discussed as presented, which is the same budget that was proposed at the September meeting. The anticipated 2018 budget is approximately \$122,332. The residual balance from 2017 is expected to be very low. Herb made a motion to accept the 2018 Budget as presented; seconded by Brian Wiker and passed.

### **New Business**

**2018 WESC Board Meetings** – Duane presented meeting dates to the Board for 2018, which has the meetings going to quarterly, not every other month. Quarterly meetings are permitted under the inter-municipal agreement. Greg Young made a motion to approve the dates for the quarterly meetings; seconded by Mike Smith and passed. 2018 Meeting Dates will be: January 15<sup>th</sup> at Brunnerville, April 16<sup>th</sup> at Brickerville, July 16<sup>th</sup> at Warwick Ambulance and October 15<sup>th</sup> at Rothsville.

**2018 WESC Objectives** – Duane reviewed his proposed 2018 WESC Objectives and for his role. Included in his goals for 2018 are:

- Emergency Management: higher personal EMA certification, reviewing of municipal plans, evaluation of local shelters, meet with local private schools to review emergency plans and helping to coordinate a regional mass casualty exercise.
- Pre-Plans: continue pre-plans of new and existing businesses, review existing pre-plans, comprehensive evaluation of local buildings containing sprinklers and reviewing access to fire department connections and sprinkler control valve rooms and then improve signage at these buildings; and a long-term goal of identifying and labeling of truss roofs and floors at commercial and industrial properties.
- Plan Reviews: Standardize the emergency services document for Warwick Township, Lititz Borough and possibly Elizabeth Township for new construction, continue to review plan submissions for emergency services needs, specifically, fire suppression systems, Knox Boxes, vehicle access, etc.
- Hydrant Maintenance Program: Assist Warwick Township with creating a standardized municipal hydrant maintenance program that can then be introduced to owners of private hydrant systems in the Township, and provide input that will benefit the emergency services, such as hydrant markings.
- Continue assisting with fund drive(s), incident reports, statistic collection, background checks on new applicants, scheduling and coordinating training classes and however else needed.
- WESC Goal – as fire companies begin to consider replacing apparatus in next few years, work towards open discussion and planning for what units are needed in the region, units that are supported regionally and fiscal responsibility.

Mike Smith shared his feelings that the objectives listed highlight the current needs and that focusing on recruiting of new members is not a high priority, since not much success has come from our recent efforts. Greg Young pointed out that most new members have been family or friends of current members, so more focus should be on retention of members, rather than recruitment.

Herb Flosdorf asked if we could track the data from automatic fire alarms and what the causes are so if they are becoming a nuisance, that we can find ways to hold building owners more accountable.

Brian Wiker requested that Duane gets more involved with Elizabeth Township emergency management duties and helping to review current EMA plans.

Keith Rothermel questioned the main purpose of WESC and whether it leads towards a potential regional fire company? Keith highlighted some of his concerns at Brickerville Fire Company, such as the number of volunteers, the lack of new volunteers moving to the area, the threat of younger members getting trained then moving away, and the demands on the members to take on more non-firefighting duties to keep the fire company running. Dan Zimmerman

spoke that the desire of WESC is to maintain the volunteer fire company model for as long as possible and to not force any regionalization or mergers on any fire company, but if the need exists, then it can be discussed. Brian Wiker thanked Keith for bringing up his concerns so that we are thinking about it and focusing on it.

**Brick Gables Fund Raiser** – Brick Gables will be hosting a “Christmas Begins in the Barn” fund raiser on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. They have decided to donate proceeds from the event to the local first responders. The proceeds from this event will help go towards a family picnic in 2018 for all WESC agencies.

### **Additional Comments**

**Brickerville** – Keith Rothermel reported that they will be having a Boot Drive at Elizabeth Farms and that two firefighters just recently completed Essentials of Firefighting and two more need to complete a live burn class in the Spring to be completed.

**Brunnerville** – Jeff Garner reported that they are forming a committee to look at replacing their Squad in 2019. They also are close to adopting updated By-Laws for the fire company.

**Lititz** – Mike Smith reported that they have changed the designation of Squad 25-1 to Rescue 25, since it now meets the Lancaster County Fire Chief’s Rescue standard. He also reported that the fire company is reviewing options for purchasing land or properties for future sub-stations due to traffic issues in downtown Lititz. There are no immediate plans to build another fire station, but they need to be open to the idea that they could have a need for it.

**Rothsville** – Greg Young reported that they recently held their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet. They recently added a new firefighter, who previously served with Lititz Fire Company and has a lot of firefighting certifications. One of their Lieutenants is moving into Brunnerville’s fire district, so he will be resigning at the end of 2017 from his leadership role. Rothsville just recently reviewed and updated their box alarms. All structure fires in their entire fire district, except in Ephrata Township, will have at least one fire truck from Lititz and Brunnerville on the initial dispatch.

**Rothsville Ambulance** – Jim Hoover reported that they have formed an ambulance committee and will most likely have a new ambulance by late Spring / early Summer. They had a total of 19 residents participate in the free community CPR program that they hosted.

**Warwick Ambulance** – Frank Kenavan reported that a new ambulance has been ordered and combined with the needed equipment, will cost about \$150,000. They have started their new Explorer program with 5 kids, ranging in age from 14-18. The Explorers have started participating in ride-alongs with the EMS crews. Frank also shared that he is looking at creating a program to offer CPR and First Aid to people with intellectual disabilities.

**Northwest EMS** – Scott Kingsboro reported that their membership / subscription service in the Brickerville area was mailed in late September and is up 5% from last year. They will also be ordering a new ambulance by the end of the year, which will be a four-wheeled drive vehicle.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Next meeting is **January 15th at Brunnerville Fire Station at 6pm.**

Minutes submitted by Duane Ober, November 27, 2017.