

**Minutes of September 18, 2017 WESC Meeting**, held at Rothsville Fire Station.

**In Attendance:** Justin Auker, Sonny Ebersole, Herb Flosdorf, Mike Flynn, Jeff Garner, Don Hoover, Jim Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Rodney May, Duane Ober, Jeff Strauss, 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:** Jeff Garner made a motion to accept the July 2017 Meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Greg Young and passed.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Earned Income Tax / Property Tax Relief** – Duane asked what the wishes are of the volunteers with regard to how they want to continue. There was agreement that the concept is a good idea but the tracking, implementation and financial benefit will not be enough to recruit new volunteers, nor retain current volunteers. At this point, the topic will be tabled. Duane was asked to reach out to our local state representatives and senator and give them feedback.

**Emergency Management Exercise** – Duane reported that he has November 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 7pm-9pm, scheduled to host a training exercise. The location of the event will be announced once it is confirmed. The objective is to review 2-3 scenarios that could greatly affect multiple disciplines, the community and the environment. We will discuss the roles of each discipline, how they would handle their responsibilities and the benefit of working together to accomplish a successful outcome. This type of exercise is needed to test the municipal emergency operations plans to see how well prepared we are for unique emergencies.

**Lititz Record Features** – Duane reported that he has received ten profiles from members already and has started the process to start having them published, hoping that more responses will be returned as the project gets moving. The order of the members being profiled will be based on the submission date of their profile to Duane.

**Rothsville Fire Company's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Sam reported they will be having an Community Open House on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11am – 3pm at their fire station. They will also be hosting a banquet on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to honor their past and current members.

**New Applicant Update** – Since the July WESC meeting, Lititz Fire Company added 2 more members (one support member and one firefighter), Rothsville Fire Company added one junior firefighter, Brickerville Fire Company added one firefighter, and Brunnerville Fire Company added three firefighters, including one with experience. There are also 2-3 more applicants going through the membership process. Discussion was held on the recent success of the number of new volunteers and the common theme was that a good number of the new members are either related to existing members or are friends of current members. The new member in Brickerville is a result of a woods fire that took place near his home and he decided he wanted to join and help.

## **New Business**

**Fire Prevention Plans for 2017** – Duane stated that National Fire Prevention Week is October 8<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>. Classes are being scheduled now with the schools and sign-up sheets will be posted soon at each fire station to recruit assistance at the events. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts – Plan 2 Ways Out". Duane then showed this year's hand-outs to the Board – fidget spinners with the theme on printed on it and a coloring book, designed by local artist Bill Dussinger and printed locally. In order to change the presentation this year, additional focus will be on fireworks safety, campfire safety, grilling safety and other flammable liquids awareness.

**2017 State Fire / EMS Grants Submissions** – Brickerville Fire Company: personal protective gear; Brunnerville Fire Company: five sets of personal protective gear, including boots and helmets; Rothsville Fire Company: 6 sets of personal protective gear; Warwick Ambulance: either a Lifepak monitor or assistance towards cost of new ambulance; Northwest EMS: assistance with purchasing a new ambulance; and Rothsville Fire Co. Ambulance: assistance towards purchase of a new ambulance.

**Proposed 2018 WESC Budget** – The 2018 Budget was presented and reviewed by Herb. There is an increase in funding by each of the three municipalities, mainly due to a lower residual balance that is anticipated to start 2018. The overall costs are holding steady compared to the 2017 budget and the contribution amounts are very close to the amounts that were provided in 2014. Herb also stated that Warwick Township is planning to buy Duane a new vehicle before the end of the year, using surplus funds from their 2017 budget. Herb asked the Board to approve the selling of Duane's current vehicle to be applied towards the cost of the new vehicle and to help equip the vehicle with needed supplies. Brian Wiker made a motion to do so; seconded by Sam Young and approved.

## **Additional Comments**

**Brickerville** – Jeff Strauss reported that several new members at his company have been completing Essentials of Firefighting training and an additional new member will start the training soon. Jeff will also be getting new swipe cards for access to the Turnpike for Lititz and Brunnerville Fire Companies. The fire company will be hosting a Chicken BBQ on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Jeff also cautioned everyone about the bridge construction taking place on Route 322 near Clay Road.

**Brunnerville** – Jeff Garner reported that their call volume is higher than last year, as a result of some fires, accidents and mutual aid assists. Brunnerville Fire Company will be hosting a take-out only dinner on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Brunnerville's fund drive has already surpassed last year's giving with a final mailing still to be sent later this year.

**Rothsville** – Sam Young mentioned that they will be hosting a breakfast on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Their fund drive was just recently mailed; Sam is unsure of the current results.

**Rothsville Ambulance** – Jim Hoover reported they have formed a committee to plan a purchase of a new ambulance. They anticipate that they will buy a four-wheeled drive ambulance this time, which will replace their 2009 ambulance. The Ambulance Corps will also be hosting a free Community CPR class on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 8am.

**Warwick Ambulance** – Frank Kenavan reported that their fund drive is currently 7% higher than last year. They have started an Explorer Post for young adults, ages 14-18 and have already received interest from 5 teenagers. A

local volunteer scout leader has offered to lead the program. They also just recently ordered a new Ambulance to replace their 2004 Squad that is used by their Medic. The new unit will be a transport ambulance that can also be used by a Medic Supervisor only, if needed.

**Northwest EMS** – Mike Flynn reported that from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> through August 30<sup>th</sup>, the ambulance in Brickerville responded to 602 calls. That number is lower than expected due to the lack of responses to Lebanon County and towards Ephrata that they anticipated to have.

**Elizabeth Township** – Brian Wiker stated that he is encouraged by the increase in the number of volunteers in the region.

**Warwick Township** – Dan Zimmerman reported that the bridge replacement on Route 772 by Warwick Road is slated to begin in 2018. The bridge replacement on Millport Road by the Conservancy won't happen until at least 2019, maybe later.

**Don Hoover** – Don thanked the Rothsville Fire Company for taking part in the Rothsville Community Days last weekend.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Next meeting is **November 20th at Lititz Fire Station at 6pm.**

Minutes submitted by Duane Ober, September 20, 2017.