

**Minutes of July 17, 2017 WESC Meeting**, held at Warwick Ambulance.

**In Attendance:** Sonny Ebersole, Herb Flosdorf, Mike Flynn, Jeff Garner, Andy Greiner, Don Hoover, Jim Hoover, Frank Kenavan, Duane Ober, Ron Oettel, Keith Rothermel, Chris Strayer, and Sam Young.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Andy Greiner at 6:00pm.

The meeting was opened with a visit from Todd Kauffman, the Superintendent of the Warwick Township Municipal Authority, to discuss the current topic of MS4 compliance and what it means to the emergency services. Todd spoke about the impact of soaps, oils, grease, etc. that flow into the storm drains and eventually flow into creeks, streams, and other bodies of water. There was discussion on how the emergency services should prepare and follow guidelines for properly cleaning and rinsing their apparatus and equipment so that the run-off does not contaminate the storm drains, as well as working to prevent products at incidents from entering storm drains or bodies of water. Todd also asked the emergency services to consider a well-head protection planning exercise, in which it was advised that it is being planned.

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

**Previous Minutes:** Jeff Garner made a motion to accept the May 2017 Meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Frank Kenavan and passed.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Earned Income Tax / Property Tax Relief** – Duane reported that Randy Gockley advised him that no new activity has been made at the County level. It appears that the State and County has pretty much passed it down to the local level for the municipalities to make their own decision. There was strong support to do this locally, but only if all three municipalities can adopt the same program so that regionally we are providing the same benefit to all the volunteers. Duane was asked to contact the State Fire Commissioner to see if there are any municipalities that have adopted a tax relief program so that we can see an example of their eligibility criteria.

**Emergency Management Exercise** – Duane reported that he hopes to have an exercise planned for late Summer or early Fall and has several exercise ideas for consideration.

**Electronic Billboard** – Duane reported that he worked with Tom Loper from Lamar Advertising to create three additional billboard ads, in addition to the County Fire Chiefs recruitment ad. Ads highlighting fund drive support, fireworks safety and checking batteries in smoke detectors are rotating in their system.

**Lititz Record Features** – Duane reported that he met with Steve Seeber from the Lititz Record to present an idea of publishing a profile feature on the local first responders each week. It would not be strictly limited to the volunteers, but all firefighters and EMS personnel. The local police have also been invited, but do not wish to be included at this point. This is planned to be a weekly feature, with a photo of the first responder, with information about why the person joined the emergency services, why he/she continues to do it and other personal information relating to their service. The goal is to create a greater community awareness of our responders, hoping to help recruit new members and to encourage current members by promoting their service. Other ways to enhance this program was shared and will be used as we move forward.

## **New Business**

**New Recruits** – Duane shared that since January 1<sup>st</sup> there has been 31 documented inquiries to become a volunteer with one of the WESC member companies. Fifteen applicants have become members, nine are in the process of joining or still considering, two withdrew, and five have not returned phone calls or emails. There is a mix of firefighters, fire police, junior firefighters and ambulance personnel. A very high number of the applicants are friends or relatives of existing members.

**Rothsville Fire Company's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Duane pointed out that they will celebrate 100 years of service this fall and plan to host an Open House for the community and a banquet for current and past members. More information will be shared once it is known.

**Pre-plans** – Duane shared that he has been working with existing businesses and new businesses to create or update pre-plans, assisting with labeling exterior doors, verifying Knox Boxes and entering data into Iamresponding software. Businesses include Rock Lititz Pod 2, Luther Care, Moravian Manor, United Zion, Warwick School District, Lititz Rec Center, Listrak, Signature Senior Living and Golden Hawk.

**Fire Prevention Plans for 2017** – Duane stated that he has met with Bill Dussinger to create a personalized coloring book for our region with fire safety messages and pictures of local fire and ambulance apparatus and equipment. Pinnacle / Heart of Lancaster was approached to see if they would partner with us for the cost of the coloring book in exchange for having the back cover to promote their business / services. They have agreed to sponsor the project for up to \$2,000. We are also looking a project idea of getting labels printed to place on cartons of baking soda with fire safety messages on it, showing the WESC logo and the logo of a local business. We are speaking with local insurance companies to see if they would consider sponsoring this project for us.

Keith Rothermel asked if we would consider purchasing a fire extinguisher training prop to be used to help teach fire extinguisher training in the community. Duane said he would check for information and pricing for this idea.

**Billing for Incidents** – Andy told everyone that he checked to see if it is permitted for fire companies to bill insurance companies for responses to fires. His research shows that most policies do not provide for payment to be made, but if it did, a municipal ordinance is required for the fire company to be authorized to send a bill. It was agreed that the efforts made to send the bill and collect on it would have a much worse impact on the donations to the fund drive then the revenue the billing would generate.

## **Additional Comments**

**Brickerville** – Keith Rothermel thanked Brunnerville and Lititz Fire Companies for their assistance recently at incidents on the Turnpike. He advised that Chief Strauss is working to get keys from the Turnpike for the mutual aid fire apparatus. Brickerville Fire Company will also be hosting a Structural Burn class in the near future and should have openings for other fire companies to send members. The fire company will be holding a chicken BBQ fund raiser on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Brunnerville** – Jeff Garner stated that the recent live fire training at the house on Chestnut Street went very well. They will also be hosting a dinner fund raiser in October.

**Lititz** – Ron Oettel pointed out that their fund drive is currently underway and that the responses are typical of previous years' support. He decided to hand-deliver the fund drive letter to some of the larger businesses this year in order to have some personal interaction with the business leaders and that has gone well – it's created a better awareness of the needs of the fire company.

Ron also advised everyone of the radio system update, Touch 2, that will be happening soon. He spoke of some concerns with the fleet mapping and the way the new radio system is being used and asked the local elected officials for support to push Lancaster County to move forward with improvements to the system and procedures. Dan Zimmerman suggested to Ron to create a summary of his concerns and present them to Logan Myers for discussion at the upcoming Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors Convention.

**Rothsville** – Sam Young mentioned that they will be holding a Chicken Corn Soup fund raiser on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Sam recently provided a fire prevention presentation to the employees at Owl Hill Learning Center. Last month they brought in two new junior firefighters and there is one additional junior firefighter joining soon.

**Rothsville Ambulance** – Jim Hoover said they have been having some maintenance and mechanical issues with their one ambulance recently and are down to one ambulance available for service right now. They just recently added a new volunteer ambulance driver.

**Warwick Ambulance** – Frank Kenavan reported that three of his providers just recently completed their certification to become Advanced EMT's and another one will begin the class in September. One EMT will be attending Paramedic school in the near future. He also stated they are researching information to begin an Explorer Post for teenagers ages 14-18. Their goal is to begin the program in the next 4-5 months.

**Andy Greiner** – Commented on the recent busy activity of the fire companies and thanked the fire and ambulance companies for their service.

**Don Hoover** – Advised of the upcoming National Night Out event for Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, being held in Clay Township this year. There will also be a farm safety and prevention program being presented by the Lancaster Extension of Penn State University, in which he is involved with.

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

Next meeting is **September 18<sup>th</sup> at Rothsville Fire Station at 6pm.**

Minutes submitted by Duane Ober, July 21, 2017.