

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission (EMPC)

Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 23, 2019 6:30 PM

I Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the EMPC meeting to order at 6:35 PM. The following members were in attendance: Richard Ruth, Kevin Cook, Bernie Carroll, Julie Hearn-Nicely, Tom Kelly, John DeMarco, Cathy Tomlinson, and Jamie Goncharoff.

Also in attendance were: Kathi McGrath and Tony Przychodzien (Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES)).

II Approval of Previous Minutes

Chief John DeMarco made a motion to approve the Draft Meeting Minutes. Richard Ruth seconded the motion. The motion to accept the meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

III Fire Services Report

Richard Ruth reported on training activities conducted by the Lionville Fire Company. He noted the Fire Expo in Hershey, PA will be held June 17-19th. It is well attended state wide with over 16,000 attendees. Richard also reported the annual Lionville golf outing will be held on June 15th; same day as the Upper Uwchlan Township Block Party.

IV Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report

Cathy Tomlinson attended the Annual Uwchlan Ambulance Stakeholders meeting earlier this month. John Applegate gave the attendees a tour of the facility. He noted to all Stakeholders the funding is down and suggested increasing township contributions. It was suggested that Kathi ask Cary Vargo, Township Manager if it would be possible to obtain a copy of Uwchlan Ambulance tax form 990 for transparency.

V County Report

Tony Przychodzien provided a summary of County DES activities (attached). He also noted that the Chester County DES web based EOC is going well. The upcoming Limerick drill will be online vs. paper. Tony noted the current Training Exercise Coordinator has resigned and the position is now open at the County EOC in Coatesville.

VI Training Officer Report

- Byron encouraged EMPC members to suggest any ideas they have for future training.
- Byron attended the County DES web based EOC training. Also included was a discussion of debris management, which can be a complex problem during a regional incident such as a hurricane.
- He is hopeful to complete his required training for his EMC certificate by September 2019.

VII Pipeline Officer Report

Tom Kelly had nothing new to report. Jamie Goncharoff mentioned there is currently one issue within Upper Uwchlan Township located on Meadow Creek Lane regarding the relocation of the pipeline route.

VII Chairman/Coordinator Report

- Byron provided a status report regarding establishing Upper UUT's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to the Public Works Building. All EMPC files have been moved to the second-floor office space. The facility's first floor could function as an ADA-compliant EOC because it has sufficient accessibility, seating and desk space, internet access, landline phones, a computer monitor, and a whiteboard.
- Tony Przychodzien mentioned the possibility of using the County's Mobile Incident Command Center Trailer, if necessary, until UUT's new Township Building has been completed.

VIII Old Business

Nothing to discuss.

IX New Business

- Kathi discussed the upcoming Block Party being held on June 15th. Cathy Tomlinson said she would be able to set up and requested to be next to the Park & Recreation table. Kathi will send out an email to coordinate who will man the table during the event. Byron asked Kathi to order a banner to go along the top face of the 10x10 Canopy.
- Jamie raised the question of retention of fire fighters and emergency volunteers generally across the nation. Chief said the SR6 (PA State Fire Commission Office) identifies the issues. Jamie suggested the EMPC coordinate with the local civic organization (Lions, Rotary, etc.) in educating them of the need being a volunteer fire fighter. Byron noted the amount of training hours (using CERT Training as an example) has become excessive, possibly discouraging volunteerism. Tony P. will look into CERT training and see if it can be streamlined into possibly CERT I and CERT II.
- Jamie asked Chief is there was a way to track the Jr. Policy Academy cadets to see how many moved into the Police or Fire field after High School Graduation. Chief will look into this.
- Julie mentioned the Red Cross and will look into having representatives come out to one of our EMPC meetings in the fall to educate the commission on their services.

X Round Table

Cathy Tomlinson made a motion to adjourn and John DeMarco seconded the motion.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary