

Upper Uwchlan Township Emergency Management Planning Commission

**Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2020
6:30 PM**

DRAFT

I Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the EMPC meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The following members were in attendance: Richard Ruth, Kevin Cook, Julie Hearn-Nicely, Bernie Carroll, Cathy Tomlinson, John DeMarco and Jamie Goncharoff (remote via cell phone). Tony Przychodzien (Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES), Kathi McGrath were also in attendance.

Cathy Tomlinson made a motion to elect Byron Nickerson to position of Chairperson of the Emergency Management Planning Commission for the reorganization of 2020. The motion to accept was passed unanimously to re-elect Byron as EMC.

II Approval of Previous Minutes

Cathy Tomlinson made a motion for the Draft Meeting Minutes to be approved. Richard Ruth seconded the motion. The motion to accept the meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

III Fire Services Report

- Richard Ruth reported Lionville has been training on chimney fires and heater fires. The Downingtown Borough donated a home in the Borough for training operations for these types of fires using smoke machines as a simulation.
- Richard noted there have been several fire companies with new officers elected in 2020. Glenmoore Fire Co. elected Paul DeCarlo as their new Chief. Ross Trego was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief, Mike Esterlis promoted to Chief of Lionville Fire Co. Richard stated due to the bylaws, current members serve a 2-year term for Chief giving other members a chance to move up in rank.

IV Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report

- Cathy Tomlinson reviewed the annual budget for Uwchlan Ambulance. She pointed out they are budgeting for a \$52,529 deficit for 2020 and wants to request a copy of their books to substantiate the hardship.
- Kathi will ask Jill Bukata, Township Treasurer to make the request. John DeMarco said Upper Uwchlan Township gives funding to Uwchlan Ambulance for their services and they are a public entity.

V County Report

- Tony Przychodzien reported the Limerick Drill went well. There was an issue with North Coventry Route alerting. Only one person was present, two are required. IPAWS worked well. The issue with the emails during the drill was an IT issue. Apparently due to the large amount of emails going out it was suspected to be SPAM and the system automatically stopped sending emails. Once realized of the problem, the IT employees were notified, investigated the issue and corrected the matter timely.
- Both the current FEMA and PEMA representatives sent in the past to oversee our drill have retired. They have historically evaluated 50% of the impacted municipalities, however, the newest FEMA administrator proposes 100% of the municipalities be evaluated.
- Since 2002, former Director Ed Adkins and Tony Przychodzien had been working on having Exelon email the alert instead of calling it in which slows the handling down. Exelon has agreed (starting in February 2020) to email any emergency to the 911 Supervisor for immediate handling.

VI Training Officer Report

- Byron Nickerson asked the commission members if there was an interest in having the IS-100 as a refresher course for our next tabletop. The commission members all agreed to having the IS-100 as a refresher.

VII Pipeline Officer Report

- Nothing to report.

VIII Chairman/Coordinator Report

- Byron said he has been appointed to the Chester County Pipeline Advisory Board. The first meeting will be on February 6, 2020. Jamie Goncharoff mention to Byron that he needs to familiarize himself with three issues currently relating to the pipeline for his meeting.
 1. A Chester County Common Pleas Judge denied (“today in fact”) the County’s request for an injunction against Sunoco Pipeline to halt construction on the Mariner East 2 project.
 2. an issue with the pipeline reconstruction at Hickory Park. 3
 3. There has been a lot of conversation with the Meadow Creek Development and the pipeline company. They want to drill through the middle of the street and the residents in that development are voicing their concerns at public meetings.
- Byron discussed the EOC and asked if the EOC email address has been resolved since the Limerick Drill. Kathi confirmed it has been set up. Kathi asked if the EOC will continue to be at the 132 Oscar Way location once the renovated Township Building is complete. Byron confirmed the EOC will go back to 140 Pottstown Pike (Township Building) after construction is complete.
- Byron raised the topic of the Corona Virus that is impacting China, with the first case hitting the United States. He suggested that the EMPC should hold a discussion during the February meeting regarding how a pandemic would affect our community, and what measures Upper Uwchlan might be taken to plan, prepare for, and to mitigate the effects of a pandemic.

IX Old Business

Nothing to report.

X **New Business**

The Police Department is the recipient of a \$8,500.00 grant from various pipeline companies to be used for EMS in the county. The grant money will be used to purchase a 2-seat off-road all-terrain vehicle (ATV) equipped with lights, sirens and an emergency logo. John said this will be used for a variety of purposes during emergency situations where a truck or vehicle cannot get through due to poor road conditions, heavy brush, down trees, etc.

XI **Round Table**

Kathi announced the Annual Block Party will be on Saturday, June 20, 2020 from 6-9 PM. Set up will be somewhere around 3:00 PM.

Byron turned the meeting over to Chief DeMarco for the Emergency Response Guide (ERG) training.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary