

Upper Uwchlan Township Emergency Management Planning Commission (EMPC)

Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 28, 2020 6:30 PM

I Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the EMPC meeting to order at 6:33 PM. The following members were in attendance via “Zoom” telephone conferencing: Byron Nickerson, Richard Ruth, Kevin Cook, Julie Hearn-Nicely, Tom Kelly, Cathy Tomlinson, John DeMarco and Jamie Goncharoff and Bernie Carroll. Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, Tony Przychodzien from Chester County EMS and Fire Chiefs Jeff Kimes (Ludwig’s Corner Fire Company), Deputy Chief Mike Holmes (Lionville Fire Company), Deputy Chief Ross Trego (Ludwig’s Corner Fire Company) and Chief Mike Esterlis (Lionville Fire Company).

II Approval of Previous Minutes

Tom Kelly made a motion for the Draft Meeting Minutes to be approved. Cathy Tomlinson seconded the motion. Kevin Cook commented that his name was omitted from having attended the April 2020 meeting. With that correction noted, the minutes were approved unanimously.

III Fire Services Report

- Richard Ruth reported the Chester County Training facility has been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, no training has been done there. However, training on hose lays and pumper operations have been conducted. Everyone must sign in/out and get their temperature checked upon entering and exiting the Lionville Fire Company facility.
- Byron introduced the topic of the future fire coverage at the housing development currently under construction on the Fetters’ property on Milford Road in Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT). The development will be called the “Preserve at Marsh Creek”. He referenced a 13-page presentation that had been received from Ludwig’s Corner Fire Company (LCFC) on the afternoon of May 28th. The meeting was then turned over to Chief Jeff Kimes from the LCFC.
- Chief Kimes presented the qualifications of the LCFC to be responsible for responding to fires at the future Milford Road development. Geographic proximity was stressed.
- Chief Kimes stated Title 35 indicates to designate 2nd class code fire responsibilities up to municipal by ordinance.
- Chief Mike Holmes voiced concerns regarding why the other fire companies that cover UUT were not invited to attend, and why the 13-page handout was not shared/provided by Chief Kimes.

- Jamie Goncharoff said he was not aware of any underline motives by LCFC and suggested that UUT investigate procedures, if proposed, to redistrict the Township for fire protection. He noted that the topic would need to be brought in front of the Board of Supervisors. Jamie suggested that the two fire companies sit down (as in the past) and discuss the coverage area, develop a plan, and present the proposed plan to the township. Jamie suggested the two fire companies develop a proposal and work with Byron to have a recommendation by July 1, 2020.

IV Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report

- Cathy Tomlinson mentioned she sent out electronically the UAC report for the EMPC to Kathi McGrath for distribution. Otherwise, nothing new to report.

V County Report

- Tony Przychodzien reported the County activated the EOC on 3/13/2020 for handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The 911 Center was divided into two units; half to the EOC in West Chester and half to the Training Center in Coatesville. Tony reported on the PPE for distribution to County facilities and medical facilities - 195,000 masks were distributed, including 33,000 N95 masks (exp 4/2022).
- The County received donations from local organization (e.g., WAWA provided ½ gallon containers for hand sanitizer and lunches for the staff.)
- There was a temporary fully constructed morgue set up in the mechanical garage (disassembled to accommodate the morgue).
- Tony reported there is an antibody testing location for all emergency personnel located at Longwood Gardens parking lot in Chadds Ford. He suggested its open to the EMPC members if anyone was interested. Jamie Goncharoff mentioned the local LabCorp. also does the antibody testing and if interested check with members insurance to see if its covered, if they didn't want to wait in a line or travel to Chadds Ford.
- Jamie asked a series of questions: How prepared was the County in the beginning? Answer: Wipes and hand sanitizer were an issue, but the County Commissioners made funds available to buy supplies. Are we up to speed with PPE or are there still unmet needs? Answer: Tony replied, for municipalities to keep at least ½ of what was used of masks and gloves. What's the County plan (stockpiling supplies, equipment being staged, if expiration dates will we need to return? Answer: Have a wish list ready for stockpiled PPE and keep good documentation.
- Tony mentioned the EOC will be up and running through the Yellow Phase.

VI Training Officer Report

- Byron Nickerson said that ICS training has been postponed.

VII Pipeline Officer Report

- Tom shared the latest world news on the increase of oil prices. U.S. shale producers are scrambling for cash.
- Jamie suggested to Tom that he concentrate on local pipelines. He suggested Tom meet with neighboring municipalities and set up communication with the Township Managers and find out if they know what's going on in their communities so we can all work together.

VIII Chairman/Coordinator Report

Nothing further to report.

IX Old Business

Nothing to report.

X New Business

Nothing to report.

XI Round Table

Nothing to report.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary