

# **Upper Uwchlan Township Emergency Management Planning Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:30 PM DRAFT**

### **I Call to Order**

Byron Nickerson called the Emergency Management Planning Commission (EMPC) meeting to order at 6:32 PM. The following members were in attendance via "Zoom" telephone conferencing: Byron Nickerson, Richard Ruth, Julie Hearn-Nicely, Tom Kelly, Cathy Tomlinson, Kevin Cook and Jamie Goncharoff. Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, Tony Przychodzien from Chester County Emergency Services, Kathi Cozzone of Uwchlan Ambulance and Steve Hirsh, Resident.

### **II Approval of Previous Minutes**

Richard Ruth noted a correction from January's minutes of training of 25 persons, not 2 persons. (Correction is noted and will be changed in final meeting minutes.) Cathy Tomlinson made a motion for the Draft Meeting Minutes to be approved with the correction of the Fire Services Report. Julie Hearn-Nicely seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### **III Fire Services Report**

- Richard reported training has continued in February at Lionville Fire Station. A session on chimney fires with snow on the roof is always tough due to operating conditions. They got new wet suits and used them in the Marsh Creek Lake for training and finally trained on the new tower.
- February 11<sup>th</sup> was Lionville Fire House 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They celebrated with a cake and stories of past experiences.
- Richard reported that there was a water rescue today on Marsh Creek Lake at the end of Chalfont Rd. The person was wearing a wet suit and had a flotation device. Lionville and Glenmoore were among those that responded and they get him out and he was transported by Ambulance to the hospital for observation.
- He reported that everyone at Lionville Firehouse got their second vaccine today.
- Richard mentioned there were a total of six incidents at Eagle Topsoil. During a meeting with Chief John DeMarco, Tony Scheivert and Anthony Campbell (Township Zoning Officer), Richard was asked to send a letter to Fritz Senn, owner of Eagle Topsoil regarding pertinent fire safety issues.
- Cathy Tomlinson asked Richard on ideas to get the word out on chimney maintenance. The Township will put an article on the topic in the Fall Newsletter to residents.

#### **IV      Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Report**

- Cathy Tomlinson introduced Kathi Cozzone (Kathi C.) as the replacement to John Applegate of Uwchlan Ambulance Corps (UAC). She started as Executive Director in the second week of January.
- They are in the process of hiring a new Chief of Operations. There is a hiring committee and the process is moving along well. Hopefully the Chief will be hired in the next month.
- They hired a Development Director last fall and he is helping process Medicare reimbursements and pursuing grants.
- All crews have had an opportunity to be vaccinated.
- Kathi C. noted that there were 353 calls in Upper Uwchlan.
- Kevin Cook asked Kathi C. if the coverage area for UAC changed with the Westwood ambulance now stationed in Glenmoore. She said that the coverage did not “officially” change; just extra support. UAC is the first call - Westwood gets second call. The coverage area in Wallace for UAC is not large, so they have had little impact.
- Cathy Tomlinson asked what we can do for UAC. Kathi C. said getting the word out to subscribers for funding. Kathi would like to get an article in the Township newsletter. Byron asked Kathi to reach out to Shanna Lodge about putting something on the township’s social media sites regarding the issue

#### **V        County Report**

- Tony Przychodzien noted that they will be testing communications on Tuesday for the Peach Bottom Drill. The drill will start as an alert to key parties. Federal evaluators will be involved. John Reynolds, EMC for West Nottingham will be involved in the drill. His radiological officer moved to Georgia, so Joe Badage will be filling in for him.
- Tuesday, November 16 is the date this year’s Limerick drill. They are rewriting all Municipal and County plans to bring them up to current FEMA standards. The County is getting help from FEMA’s Area Manager and working with FEMA in Washington, DC to help rewrite the plans. All 15 municipalities will be involved and evaluated this year.
- Personal protective equipment acquisitions made for the pandemic are now stored at the Bacton Hill Road facility. Everything is labeled with expiration dates, etc. and very well organized.

#### **VI      Training Officer Report**

- Smart Board training has been completed (two sessions). IT issues with firewall have been resolved and software issues have been figured out. Some issues with Township- and County-provided equipment still persist. Microsoft Office documents (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) must be saved down one version for the board to recognize them.  
It will be a great tool to have during meetings, tabletop exercises, EOC activations, etc. Meetings can be attended remotely. Remote users can use smartboard functions, which could be useful for displaying documents, photos, etc. Byron has additional ideas for enhancing smart board functionality.

- Byron suggests using the KN95 masks because the fit on the face is much better than on surgical
- Jamie noted the many advantages and the functionality of an alternative mask that was provided by a local vendor. It is new to the market and costs about \$40. It has inserts that are wetted to render it 100% against COVID.
- Incident response discussions are planned for future meetings.

## **VII Pipeline Officer Report**

- Tom Kelly said that the Meadow Creek Drive project resumed work today. It has been held up due to bad weather.
- Tony Scheivert and the Township inspector are going to meet with Sunoco tomorrow.
- Energy Transfer's contractor had to cross Enbridge's pipeline along roughly 20' of the road. There is currently a deep/wide trench, so the road is closed.

## **VIII Chairman/Coordinator Report**

- Bernie has resigned from his position on the EMPC due work commitments in California. There is a vacancy now and Steve Hirsh will be recommended to fill that open position.
- Byron mentioned everyone should have received their ID Badges for 2021. Those that are not pleased with their photos can inquire with the police department regarding new photos.
- The contents of the EOC facility at the Public Works Building will moved over to the Township Building next week.

## **IX Old Business**

EMPC stickers are available from Kathi for anyone who wants them.

## **X New Business**

Jamie mentioned there are sessions provided by TEMA at the PSATS State Conference in Hershey this year. This one day event is on Sunday, the first day of the conference. Information can be found on TEMA's website.

## **XI Round Table**

No issues to discuss.

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath  
EMPC Secretary