

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 15, 2025

The meeting was held at the UUT Township Building, 140 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, PA

I. Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the Emergency Management Commission (EMPC) meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members were in attendance: Byron Nickerson, Steve Hirsh, Jeff Churchvara, Cathy Tomlinson, Ricard Ruth, Jamie Goncharoff and Chief Tom Jones.

Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, EMPC Secretary and Jeff Benach, Ludwigs Corner Fire Co./resident.

II. Approval of the January Meeting Minutes

- Byron Nickerson made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes and Steve Hirsh seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously with Cathy Tomlinson and Jamie Goncharoff abstaining since they were not present at the last meeting.

IV. Chairperson/EMC Report

- Byron reported that Steve Hirsh and he had met with Tony Scheivert, Ludwigs Corner Fire Company and Lionville Fire Company regarding UUT's DPW workers response to fires during working hours. This issue was raised by Ludwigs Corner Fire Company during the EM Service Providers Roundtable in March. The discussions with the fire companies concluded that volunteer fire fighters cannot be forced to respond to fires, that DPW employees are free to respond to callouts from either fire companies, and DPW workers that are members of Lionville Fire Company could become members of Ludwigs Corner Fire Company by attending one introductory meeting. Also, firefighters are covered by the insurance of fire companies from the moment they get in their car to respond to a callout.
- Chief Jones noted that Jason Brooks will be resigning from Uwchlan Ambulance effective 5/4/2025. Tammy Whiteman will resume the role as Chief.
- Byron and Steve met with Rhys Lloyd, Building Code Official for UUT, on the flood hazard mitigation portion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) for the County's 5-year update. They also met with Mike Esterlis and Steve Poley regarding the status of hazards and mitigation measures that were identified in 2015 for which the DPW is responsible.

- Byron noted that Steve and he had presented the draft-final UUT HMP earlier in the day at the Board of Supervisor's Board and Commission Workshop. By participating in the County's HMP Update, townships can seek hazard mitigation grants and receive recovery funds from FEMA. UUT hazards were identified, and mitigation plans were last completed in 2015.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Awareness and Preparedness (Jamie Goncharoff)

- Jamie said Jeff Churchvara did a great job presenting to the Preserve at Marsh Creek HOA meeting. He would like to have the meeting mentioned in the township's newsletter so that more HOA's will ask to have the EMPC present to their community residents.

Emergency Services Committee (Kevin Cook)

- No report. Kevin has been briefed on the meetings that were held with the various fire companies regarding the DPW volunteer firefighter response issue.

Operations & Pipeline Committee (Steve Hirsh)

- Steve said 5 of 6 pipeline markers knocked down have been replaced on Little Conestoga Road.
- Steve will be sending out an email requesting coverage for the EOC for the upcoming Block Party. He will work on the checklist for the EOC and Booth.

Police Update (Chief Tom Jones)

- Chief Jones noted that the police canine unit is going to school in mid-May and will be done mid-June. He will be certified in patrol and weapons identification. Mangone Associates is generously paying for the training.
- The Police Department is working on vehicle intrusion mitigation for the upcoming Block Party. He said the County is purchasing metal barricades which we may be available for use. Ongoing construction on Station Boulevard is helpful in this regard.
- UUT has "No Parking" ordinances in place to allow enforcement efforts on township roads leading to Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP). UUPD recently had a meeting with Marsh Creek State Park personnel. Signs are in place for the No Parking locations. Residents are aware of the ordinance and can apply to UUPD for parking permits in the area.
- All officers are fully trained by MCSP Rangers for water/boat rescues with MCSP boats. Lionville Fire Company has water rescue boats for the region.

Trailer Committee (Jamie Goncharoff)

- Jamie said the trailer construction is moving forward and his team is looking to have it completed in time for the Block Party.
- Robert H. Benedict Contracting donated labor costs to install three sets of steps; two in the back and one on the side of the Community Emergency Assistance trailer.
- Century Cabinets donated the base cabinet and a shelf for above the cabinet. The shelf will be capable of becoming part of the desk unit.
- Two windows will be installed on each side of the trailer to promote cross ventilation. The window locations will not interfere with the lettering on the outside of the trailer.

- Jeff Benach is working on the electrical wiring. Jamie will be taking the trailer to his house to install the cabinets, desk, windows and shelving. The dual-fuel generator will be installed up front on the trailer's tongue.
- The trailer will be used as a display during the Block Party and will be set up next to EMPC's table.
- Jamie mentioned that he eventually wants to put padded flooring down and install a vented ceiling fan.

Flooding/Power Surge issues (Cathy Tomlinson)

- Cathy mentioned PECO has a huge amount of accounting of upgrades. They are working on temporary upgrades now and the permanent ones will be done next year.
- Nothing to report on Flooding.

VII. Old Business

- Kathi gave update on the fleece vest order for all EMPC members will be done by the end of April in time for the PSATS Conference.

VIII. New Business

- The Hazard Risk Assessment (HRA) was discussed in depth (including mitigation measures) with the EMPC members. A vote was conducted, and unanimously approved, to submit the HRA to the County as discussed during the meeting. A copy of the final HRA is attached.

IX. Notable Action Items

- Byron will complete the Hazard Mitigation Plan worksheets and HRA by next week and submit them to the County.
- Jeff Churchvara will call Jeff Denman regarding the generator for the trailer.
- Cathy and Steve will complete the Flooding annex.
- EMPC and Police will test the radios and other equipment prior to the Block Party.
- The bulk of the trailer construction will be completed in time for the Block Party. (Jamie, Jeff B., and other members)

X. Round Table

Nothing further was discussed.

Jamie Goncharoff made a motion to end the meeting, and Steve Hirsh seconded the motion. Get well Julie. All members were enthusiastically in favor of the motion. There were no dissenting votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary