

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

## **Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

### **I Call to Order**

Byron Nickerson called the EMPC meeting to order at 6:33 PM. The following members were in attendance: Byron Nickerson, Jamie Goncharoff, John DeMarco, Richard Ruth, Cathy Tomlinson, Kevin Cook, Julie Hearn-Nicely (via Zoom).

Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, EMPC Secretary; Jeff Churchvara (Resident); Deputy Chief Jeff Kimes, Ludwigs Corner FD (via Zoom); and Joe Stoyack (Planning Commission).

### **II County Report**

Tony Przychodzien was not present for the meeting. Nothing to Report.

### **III Approval of February Meeting Minutes**

Jamie Goncharoff noted a correction to the February meeting minutes, round table section VIII last bullet to read... Jamie mentioned that he was in favor of having the three standing committees be listed on the monthly agendas so that the committee chairs could give an update on their committees if there was an update to be provided. This would then facilitate EMPC members to provide input on the committee activities through an organized discussion.

Jamie made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, Cathy Tomlinson seconded the motion. Kevin Cook had one abstention since he was not present at the February meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV Chairperson/Emergency Management Coordinator Report**

Nothing to Report.

### **V. Old Business**

Follow-up discussion regarding Uwchlan Ambulance Corps' satellite facility in UUT.

- Byron commented that he had received feedback from a few commission members that some members were uncertain about whether a UAC satellite facility in UUT is appropriate. He noted that the purpose of this discussion was to address members' questions and concerns. He then turned the floor over to Kevin Cook, Emergency Services Committee Chairperson.
- Kevin asked all commission members to discuss their concerns or ideas. Cathy Tomlinson asked if locating a facility at Station 87 (Ludwigs Corner Fire Co) rather than Milford Road is an option. Kevin said Ludwigs was not willing to host a UAC facility due to insufficient space.

- Cathy questioned whether Rt 100 would be widened when the PA Turnpike is widened to three lanes. If so, would that road widening adequately decrease UAC's response time? Byron commented that years ago (source unknown) he heard that Route 100 would not be widened when the Turnpike gets widened, and that (even if it was) there are lane limitations through UUT.
- In that regard, Cathy also inquired on the final design plans of Graphite Mine Road. She is of the opinion that road construction and traffic routing are not complete. John DeMarco said, to his knowledge, roadway construction and traffic routing are complete and no other changes to Graphite Mine or Pottstown Pike were planned.
- Kathi McGrath suggested looking at UUT's sewer plant as a possibility for the satellite location. John DeMarco mentioned that there is road access via the pipeline company located next to that sewer plant.
- Jamie said a study should be conducted to see if it's feasible to have a fire truck and ambulance housed in UUT. Byron noted that the Board of Supervisors last month approved conducting an update to the 2003 Emergency Services Study. The PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) was chosen to do the study. Byron said he recently received five electronic files (Word and Excel) containing sets of information that DCED needed to begin. He noted that his initial inspection of one file revealed a data request that requires a very significant effort to complete. He opened and displayed the electronic file on the SMART Board.
- John DeMarco said he would review the files and asked Byron to forward them to him. He mentioned the County is a great resource for getting additional information. He said, and Byron agreed, that before any study is completed, we need to know what we want the output will be; what will it tell us.
- Kevin Cook said he would meet with his committee to discuss more options. Kevin, Cathy, Richard, Steve, and Byron volunteered to be on the committee that addresses the UAC satellite facility topic.
- Joe Stoyack from the UUT Planning Commission mentioned we need to have a draft Plan for EMPC's input to the Comprehensive Plan Update submitted by October 2022. Byron mentioned that the DCED study will probably not be done by the deadline but said he would work with Joe to get a product to the Planning Commission. Joe said we need to think about where we plan to be in 2034. He said the EMPC's input should be like a "roadmap from today to 2034."
- We need to look at the probable aging demographic of the UUT. Joe said we need to think about whether we want to continue subcontracting emergency services or do them ourselves. He said that DCED would ideally do the heavy lifting on this topic.
- Cathy Tomlinson met with John DeMarco and determined problem areas for flooding. Cathy then met with Mike Heckman in Public Works to further the discussion. Cathy presented a map of the Township with the roads mentioned below flooding problems.
- Font and Greenridge – Mike told Cathy large culverts were added at that intersection. Due to neighboring residents dumping yard waste and cut down trees, the culverts get clogged during a heavy rainfall.
- Cathy said Redbone Road is lower than the pipe. She mentioned a study was previously done and to reach out to Gilmore & Associates to get the report. The study determined the road is to be raised, however, the township has not done that as of this date. There may be other issues that Gilmore & Associates would be able to answer.
- Dorlan Mill Road floods and is a state road and maintained by PennDOT.
- N. Reeds Road also floods. Cathy said the County is coming to meet with the Township on March 21, 2022.
- Jamie said there is grant money available for hazard mitigation.

- He said to determine state vs. municipal roadways and get memorandums of understanding in place for taking critical emergency actions on state and neighboring municipal roads.
- Jamie suggested the Tony S. and Mike Heckman should assess critical emergency actions required on non-UUT roads and present the findings to the Board of Supervisors.
- Byron asked Cathy to provide the list of flooding roadways and he will forward them with a cover email to Tony Scheivert for handling.
- Cathy concluded with possibly getting a flooding height measurement marker installed at the N. Reeds Rd. Bridge by the Downingtown Water Department.

## **VII. Round Table**

- Jamie Goncharoff suggested that the EMPC reach out to community associations, municipal leaders, public and private organization and schedule/hold 20-minute presentations on emergency awareness and preparedness. Presentation materials need to be developed. The meetings could be held at the Township Building or HOA meeting facilities. Jamie asked for assistance with creating a PowerPoint presentation. Jeff Churchvara volunteered to assist with this effort.
- Byron said a Junior at the Downingtown STEM academy was referred to him regarding a 21-hour internship this summer. His plan is to set her up with the ChesCo DES.
- Kevin Cook volunteered to take control of one of the County-supplied laptops, which will help keep the equipment exercised and the software updated. As a result, it will be more usable should the EOC be activated.

Byron Nickerson made a motion to end the meeting, John DeMarco seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the motion.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6:30 PM at Glenmoore Fire Co.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath  
EMPC Secretary