

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 21, 2023

The meeting was held at the Township Building, 140 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, PA 19425.

I Call to Order

Byron Nickerson called the Emergency Management Commission (EMPC) meeting to order at 6:30 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was recorded on Sembly/Zoom.

The following members were in attendance: Byron Nickerson, Jamie Goncharoff, Richard Ruth, Steve Hirsh, Cathy Tomlinson, Julie Hearn Nicely (VIA ZOOM), Kevin Cook (VIA ZOOM), Chief Tom Jones and Jeff Churchvara.

Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, EMPC Secretary, Tony Przychodzien and Scott Nicely (VIA ZOOM).

III. County Report

- Tony P. indicated the Limerick drill will be on September 26, 2023 for all municipalities. It will be a hostile based exercise. He discussed the implementation of the start of pipeline emergency training. It will be broken down into 3 locations to cover the surrounding area. Tony mentioned it would consist of part reactive and part critical function. The county GIS is developing plans for where all pipelines are currently located for the training.
- Tony mentioned the county is still doing route alerting for Peach Bottom and Limerick.
- Byron inquired on the status of the Base Station, Tony said it should have already been delivered, he will check on it and let Byron know the status. Byron said it should be in a locked area or turned off when not in use for security measures.
- Tony P said the county DES is now fully staffed.

IV. Approval of the October 2022 Meeting Minutes

Richard Ruth made a motion to approve, Cathy Tomlinson seconded the motion.

V. Chairperson/EMC Report

- Byron mentioned he attended the quarterly training earlier and went well. The next meeting will be June 20, September 19, November 28 either 1 PM or 7 PM.
- Joe Sciandra from Valley Twp. was unable to attend this meeting to discuss CERT Training.
- Kevin Beck is the new Community Outreach Coordinator and currently working on a program for HOA's.
- In the quarterly meeting, they discussed the option of being able to text an emergency to the 911 center if you are unable to call possibly due to an intruder situation.

- Byron asked Steve Hirsh to assist him with operations of the EMPC. All members should include Steve in emails or communications that go to Byron to keep him updated and informed.
- Julie volunteered to monitor the email for the EMPC. They will be routed to her email. Byron will follow up with Gwen Jonik to get a designated email address with Helpnow.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Awareness and Preparedness (Jamie Goncharoff)

- Jamie and Jeff completed their presentation and will present at the end of this meeting.

Emergency Services Committee (Kevin Cook)

- Kevin wanted to thank Byron and Kathi for arranging last month's Emergency Services round table held at the Barn. He said there were 3 takeaways. (1) all fire companies were united in increasing volunteers (2) voluntary funding (3) were not aligned on end result of how to get the funding.
- Byron said he would send the information to Kevin on Funding Fire Depts. Grant specific.
- Kevin looked at each website and said Glenmoore was the only one that had volunteerism on their website. The others didn't have any mention of needing volunteers.
- Kevin will finalize a formal process of how the fire and Ems companies request Capital Funds from the Township. He will put it in bullet form and present it to Tony Scheivert, Township Manager for approval.

Pipeline Committee (Steve Hirsh)

- Steve mentioned the need to sit down and discuss ahead of the County pipeline drill exercise to ensure we are prepared. He said if the EMPC has at least two drills per year that would be great (Limerick, Pipeline and Block Party).

Flooding Issues (Cathy Tomlinson)

- Cathy met with Byron, Tom Brady (County) and Steve Hirsh at the North Reeds Road Bridge #134. She said she reached out to Dave Stauffer, County Park and Rec and they are working with the trailhead. She would like to find out from Dave what the real plans are for the trail. She suggested getting a sign possibly saying "Prone to Flooding" on both sides of the bridge instead of the solar sensor sign which is much more expensive.
- Byron asked Cathy to make a plan on getting funding from the township.
- Jamie wanted to know if there were any state roads with flooding if the township public works employees were inhibited as an emergency response by the State by taking action. Tom said our PW employees do take action to clear roads for emergency responders if they are impassable. Under the emergency declaration act, you can do that to fix an obstruction and clear the roadway for an emergency response.
- Steve said on February 22, there was a Chester County Bridge Program meeting. They recommended that nothing larger than a box truck should travel the N. Reeds Rd. Bridge. The county is going to install a sign that says weight limit on that bridge. Chief Jones will reach out to the County on weight limit. (Update; sign limiting traffic to 12 ton has been installed)
- If our Police are notified if trucks exceeding the weight limit the drivers are given citations if warranted.

- Byron will reach out to Nick Melchoir, Safe Schools regarding school buses not to cross the bridge.

Cyber Security Assessment

- Richard Bassler (TAB), Byron and Scott met with the State & Federal Dept. of Homeland Security – CSA. They play more as advisors looking at critical services to find out where the vulnerability is at. They want to pick one critical service and do an assessment consisting of 299 questions/6 hr. assessment. Richard will take the lead on this to act as a key person with the Township. He has a criminal justice certification. Richard will meet with Byron, Scott and Tom Jones and determine which critical service will be done first.

VII. Old Business

- Round table for last month's Fire Services Meeting. Jamie suggested the fire companies should think outside the box for collecting donations, possibly ask businesses for donations and put the company name on the fire truck for a year saying "sponsored by..." or something like that. Possibly hire a company to send out mailings, see if the township would permit erecting a sign at the corner of graphite mine and Pottstown Pike.

VIII. New Business

- Jamie and Jeff reviewed their presentation with the commission members. Jamie thanked all those that helped provide information for the presentation. All members applauded those efforts. The next step is emailing a letter Jamie is to generate and will provide to Kathi for emailing to HOA Community Managers on Township letterhead. Kathi will send out the email, Jamie and Jeff will begin setting up time for the roadshow to begin.
- We are requested to have a projector and a screen with the ACT 147 grant monies. Tony P. noted the request, Byron is to put the request in writing to Tony P.
- Byron mentioned Marsh Creek is willing to speak with the EMPC at the April or May meeting.

IX. Round Table

- Jeff Churchvara asked Kathi to order giveaways for the Block Party and put something on them to support volunteerism.
- Julie suggested a survey monkey be done with possibly 5 or 6 questions. She will create the form and make it accessible to roundtable participants.
- Chief Jones said the PD had a training class and all Township Staff to include Public Works employees, are all CPR and AED certified now.
- Richard said Lionville Fire did CPR/AED and Hazmat training.

X. Notable Action Items

- Tony P to check on the status of base station and let Byron know.
- Byron works with Gwen to get a designated email for the EMPC to be routed to Julie's email.
- Request a projector and portable screen from the ACT 147 grant money, Bryon to request in writing to Tony P.
- Byron to send via email the Funding Fire Dept. information on grants to Kevin.
- Kevin to complete the formal process on how fire and EMS request capital funds to Tony.
- Capital Funding: Kevin to formalize a process for fire services to request funds from township.
- Jamie and Jeff will start notifying the HOA's and schedule upcoming presentations.
- Cathy to get plan to get funding from the Township for Flooding Sign for N. Reeds Bridge.
- Chief will find out if the weight limit sign on reducing weight from the County is on the N. Reeds Rd. Bridge.
- Byron to contact Nick Melchior regarding school buses traveling on N. Reeds Rd. bridge.
- Kathi to order giveaways for the Block Party.

Cathy made a motion to end the meeting and Richard seconded the motion. All members were enthusiastically in favor of the motion. There were no dissenting votes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary