

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 18, 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 6:05 PM, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was recorded on Sembly/Zoom.

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

Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, EMPC Secretary and Joe Sciandra, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Manager.

II. County Report

- No report.
- Jeff said the projector and screen request was emailed to Byron this afternoon and needs to get signed by the Board of Supervisors and sent to Tony Przychodzien for Act 127 grant funding.

III. CERT Review

- Joe Sciandra, CERT Program Manager gave an overview of CERT Training. Joe is also the EMC for Valley Township. CERT training/certification provides limited emergency response training to community members when needed. CERT training consists of eight units and a final exam. Information can be found at:
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/preparedness-activities-webinars/community-emergency-response-team>
- Joe mentioned creating a Facebook page for larger groups to promote CERT. It's typically promoted by word of mouth or Township sponsored events or newsletters.
- The County will soon be offering a refresher course that is skills based. Review and practical hands on the following Saturday.
- Joe introduced the idea of a neighborhood-based program consisting of the EMC talking to the Homeowners associations. Cathy Tomlinson said it would be great to roll CERT out to faith-based communities.
- Joe commented that once CERT members are certified, it's important to communicate with them via email to keep them engaged; possibly offering tabletop refresher exercises.
- Cathy and Jamie commented that a nine-week commitment is too long for most people.
- Julie Hearn Nicely asked how far back the County goes with records of those that have already been certified. Joe said he believes that records date back to 2010.

- Joe said hybrid classes in addition to hands on and committing to a boot camp weekend for the hands on is a great way to complete this course.

IV. Approval of the October 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Julie wanted a correction to the 2nd bullet in Roundtable to read: Julie suggested a survey monkey be done with possibly five or six questions. She will create the form and make it accessible to roundtable participants.
- Julie Hearn-Nicely made a motion to approve the minutes, with the noted correction. Cathy Tomlinson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously with no abstentions.

V. Chairperson/EMC Report

- Byron said the PSATS Conference in Hershey, PA starts this Sunday. Jamie Goncharoff and he will be attending.
- Byron noted that he attended a Town Hall that was hosted by the Physicians for Social Responsibility - PA and the Watchdogs for SE Pennsylvania at the Upland Farms Barn. Presentations were more on the safety side than emergency management. Two things that caught his attention: 1) sludge containing low levels of radioactive materials associated with pipeline pumped pig operations and the results of FLIR measurements collected at the TC Energy facility on Fellowship Road. Byron is on the agenda for the County's Pipeline Safety Advisory Board this month to recommend that a committee be formed to review the information in greater detail.
- Marsh and French Creek managers will be holding a simulated "search and rescue" exercise for emergency personnel on May 20 at 8:00 PM. Steve thinks the EMPC members should be present as well. Byron noted that Park personnel will be meeting with the EMPC during the May meeting.
- Byron solicited ideas for the June EMPC meeting. If no suggestions are made, the EMPC will listen to/discuss a podcast that discusses emergency management myths.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Awareness and Preparedness (Jamie Goncharoff)

- Nothing to report.

Emergency Services Committee (Kevin Cook)

- Kevin said he and Steve Hirsh met with Chief Esterlis and Captain Lamb from Lionville Fire Company. The primary topic was emergency callout reporting. Chief Esterlis is going to extract call data information from the CAD system so that all fire companies reporting will be in a consistent format.
- Chief Jones will give Kevin the monthly CAD report he gets from the surrounding fire companies.
- Kevin is missing some of the monthly report responses. Kathi will give him the data he is missing.

- Kevin wants to formalize capital requests to the Township from fire companies for UUT budgeting purposes, and to be fair across all fire companies. He is planning to provide a fillable web form for fire company use.
- Uwchlan Ambulance may be in the Milford location within the next month. They are making progress. They just need to get certified and should be done by the end of the month.

Pipeline Committee (Steve Hirsh)

- Nothing to report.

Flooding Issues (Cathy Tomlinson)

- Cathy would like to get a sign that says flooding zone, not an electric sign. Byron told Cathy to reach out to Public Works to get a couple of signs made and posted.
- Cathy is not getting a response from the County on where the trailhead is and when the bridge will be placed. Byron will discuss the topic with Cathy at a later date.

Cyber Security Assessment

- No report.

VII. Old Business

- Chief Jones to give Byron the contact information for Nick Melchior regarding school buses traveling on North Reeds Road bridge.

VIII. New Business

- Block Party, Steve asked if we are to open the EOC at 11:00. He will set up a schedule for manning the EOC for the duration of the block party with the assistance of PD.
- Police and SWAT will have booth(s) at the Block Party. Police will also be utilizing COM 1. Similar to last year, the drone will be utilized.
- EMPC members that are involved in Block Party activities will be invited to the final preparation meeting.
- EMPC will distribute a preparedness flyer at the block party.

IX. Round Table

- Nothing to report

X. Notable Action Items

- Kevin to complete the capital request list form
- Chief Jones to give Kevin the monthly CAD report.
- Steve to send email out staffing list for the EOC and booth.
- Once the projector and screen are received, Jamie and Jeff will start scheduling/holding presentations with HOAs.
- Cathy to contact Mike Esterlis at DPW to get a sign for North Reeds Bridge.

- Chief Jones to give Byron Nick Melchior's contact information.
- Byron to contact Nick Melchior regarding school buses traveling on North Reeds Road bridge.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary