

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 19, 2023

The meeting was held at the Uwchlan Township Building, 715 Ship Rd., Exton, PA

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 following members were in attendance: Byron Nickerson, Jamie Goncharoff, Kevin Cook, Richard Ruth, Steve Hirsh, Julie Hearn-Nicely, Chief Tom Jones and Jeff Churchvara.

Also, in attendance were Kathi McGrath, EMPC Secretary, Tony Przychodzien, Chester County DES and Mike Holmes, Resident.

II. Approval of the October 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Jamie Goncharoff stated he never received the draft meeting minutes ahead of the meeting and neither did Jeff Churchvara. Byron sent the agenda and minutes out on Sunday prior to the meeting. He asked Kathi to investigate the EMPC Members email group and correct if some members are missing. No motion was made to accept the Draft Minutes.

III. Chairperson/EMC Report

- Byron realized as a volunteer, he needed to do a better job at communicating when he travels and does not check his emails regularly. He will let Chief Tom Jones and Steve Hirsh know when he is traveling.
- He said he was thinking during the most recent incident with the escaped inmate at large what the EMPC could do to assist however, did not reach out to the group for execution. Byron would like to discuss this with the group later and make an action plan.
- Byron submitted the 2024 budget to the Township. He has increased funds to obtain a CERT Trailer.
- The need for SAFETY should be in the EMPC mission statement/job description and currently is not. He will look to revise this to include the word SAFETY.
- Byron would like to have a set of written directions on how to use the smart board.
- He turned the meeting over to Chief Jones for updates with the recent inmate situation. Chief Jones said communication is vital and while his department was in the woods with limited cell coverage, Tony Scheivert, Township Manager and Sandy DiAmico, Board of Supervisor were manning the incoming calls from residents overnight. He has plans in place to ensure social media is updated regularly for any future incidents such as this going forward.
- Tm said the Police trailer is in service housing the gator, motorcycles and map of the community. He said the EMPC is welcome to use for CERT as well.

IV. Committee Reports

Community Awareness and Preparedness (Jamie Goncharoff)

- Jamie said he and Jeff are ready to roll out the presentation to the community with Jeff taking a lead role.

Emergency Services Committee (Kevin Cook)

- Kevin said Ludwigs Fire Company put into service the 735 Pumper Truck and the first call was in Upper Uwchlan.
- Station 287 (UAC) is set up on Milford Rd. in Upper Uwchlan. Kevin said approximately 15% of the calls are being run out of that location. Mike Holmes, Resident asked, if at all possible, they could extend the service hours to overnight and also see if they would be able to cover his community at The Preserve at Marsh Creek especially for QRS after hours. Kevin will arrange a meeting and see if that would be possible. Chief Jones will give Kevin the new contact at UAC since personnel duties changed and Tammy is no longer the contact as her role changed within the organization.

Pipeline Committee (Steve Hirsh)

- Nothing to report.
- Steve would like to arrange another meeting at the Spectra Transmission facility on Pottstown Pike for the EMPC to tour and get a better understanding of their current operation.

Flooding Issues (Cathy Tomlinson)

- Nothing to report. Cathy was not present for the meeting.

Cyber Security Assessment

- Nothing to report.

V. Old Business

- Nothing to report.

VI. Chesco Department of Emergency Service (Tony Przychodzien)

- Byron turned the meeting over to Tony for the Limerick overview.
- Tony led a slide presentation overview of the upcoming Limerick (Constellation) Drill being held next Tuesday, September 26.
- Tony said it will be a hospital-based scenario.
- He said Chester County (12), Montgomery (15) and Berks (8) Counties will be involved in the drill.

VII. New Business

- Nothing to report.

VIII. Notable Action Items

- Kathi to ensure all emails are correct in the EMPC Members Group.
- Byron to work on Mission/Job Description for EMPC to enclose the work Safety.
- Chief Jones to give Kevin Cook Uwchlan Ambulance contact to set up meeting.
- Steve set up a meeting with Constellation for a tour of the facility.

IX. Round Table

- Nothing to report.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathi McGrath
EMPC Secretary