

Upper Uwchlan Township (UUT) Emergency Management Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 14, 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 6:07 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following members were in attendance: Byron Nickerson, Steve Hirsh, Jeff Churchvara, Cathy Tomlinson, Julie Hearn-Nicely, Kevin Cook and Chief Tom Jones.

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

- II. The meeting was turned over to Kathi for the EMPC's annual organization of Chair and Vice Chair. The commission members voted unanimously for Byron Nickerson as EMPC's Chair and Steven Hirsh as the Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Kathi turned the meeting back over to Byron.

III. Approval of the October Meeting Minutes

- There were two edits to the minutes. Page 2, first bullet to change first sentence to read *Kevin reported Emergency Services responses have increased 3% YTD through September 2024 as compared to the same time in 2023. The increase is driven by EMS calls in the township. Fire calls have decreased.* Page 3, first bullet, add *Rosemary was unaware of any other power surges.*
- Cathy Tomlinson made a motion to approve the edited draft meeting minutes and Byron Nickerson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously with no abstentions.

IV. Chairperson/EMC Report

- Byron asked if the Lions Club was still active. Chief Jones said he gets information from then and would be happy to share a contact with Byron.
- Byron and Steve reported going to the KEMA Conference in Altoona. Byron stated he spoke with an Enbridge representative and that it was a worthwhile conference.
- Byron referenced the "What3words" app. It is an excellent location finder app that identifies any location on the surface of Earth within three meters via three words. Chief Jones noted that our police use it for logistics, and search and rescue.
- Byron said we are still considering the appropriate location for the alternate EOC.
- Byron spoke with Bud Turner regarding sending out a cover letter for the regional EMC association
- Byron held a UUT winter weather exercise with township staff, noted that it was well attended, that department heads participated enthusiastically. The township has a

unified command for weather incidents, which may need to evolve as conditions warrant.

VI. Committee Reports

Community Awareness and Preparedness (Jamie Goncharoff)

- Jeff Churchvara said he and Jamie held a meeting at the Preserve at Marsh Creek. They completed it within 30 minutes with few questions from residents.
- He would like to have giveaways for future community awareness meetings.
- Jeff would like an updated HOA listing for notifications to go out for future meetings for this year. Kathi said once new HOA leadership is elected; she will send the contact list to Jeff and Jamie.

Emergency Services Committee (Kevin Cook)

- Kevin reported that the Board of Supervisors approved a tax incentive for emergency services employees that live/volunteer locally in Upper Uwchlan.
- The Emergency Services Roundtable is scheduled for February 11, 2025, and will be held at the Upland Farm Barn from 6-9 PM. Save the Date notices have gone out.

Operations & Pipeline Committee (Steve Hirsh)

- Nothing to Report.

Police Update (Chief Tom Jones)

- Chief Jones noted that the Chester County Department of Emergency Services has begun the 5-year update of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. They are holding zoom meetings for all township managers and emergency managers. Townships can seek hazard mitigation grants and recovery funds from FEMA only if they have participated in the county's Hazard Mitigation Program. The EMPC last identified UUT hazards and presented mitigation plans in 2015.
- He announced that his department is hiring two part-time officers and one full-time officer to replace the one that just left.
- He is working on establishing a K9 Program. Possibly a Weapons and Patrol (dual capability) dog. He is currently working on the implementation plan for the K9 with surrounding areas.
- Chief Jones mentioned there is an author, Bruce Mowday, that wrote a book on the Cavalcante incident, and he will be coming to the Township Building to sell and sign books if anyone is interested on Wednesday, January 23rd.
- He reported that Rhys Lloyd and he are currently working on evacuation plans for the Township building.
- His department is working on reaccreditation and needs documentation from the last Limerick drill. Kathi will provide it to Tom and Joe.

Trailer Committee (Jamie Goncharoff)

No report.

Flooding issues (Cathy Tomlinson)

- Cathy discussed the \$715 million dollar funding from the Federal Government to mitigate natural disasters. She and Byron will work on the grant request together.
- Cathy mentioned that PECO has plans to reconfigure the line that caused severe power surges on the west side of Marsh Creek Lake later in 2025.

VII. Old Business

- Kathi will make a fleece vest order for all EMPC members.

VIII. New Business

- Chief Jones said he and the township manager are working on a backup plan in the event of primary internet failure; possibly Starlink or T-Mobile.

IX. Notable Action Items

- Byron to reach out to the Lions Club to discuss continued partnership with the EMPC.
- Tom to give Byron the contact for local Lions club member.
- Byron to draft and send out letter of interest to the regional EMCs in Chester County.
- Tony S to speak at the upcoming Emergency Services Providers' Roundtable.
- Kathi to send the updated HOA listing once the newly appointed members have been elected.
- Jeff and Kathi to identify/obtain giveaways for HOA meetings.
- Byron and Cathy to work on identifying issues for mitigation grant funding from FEMA.
- Kathi to order EMPC fleece vests for EMPC members and active volunteers.
- Jeff and Kathi to set up dates for non-certified and certified CPR classes.
- Jeff to reach out to UAC on presenter availability.
- Kathi to locate the sign in sheet from the last Limerick Drill and give to Chief Jones for Police Department accreditation.

X. Round Table

Nothing further was discussed.

Julie Hearn-Nicely 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 Extraordinaire