

**PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD**

Minutes of January 17, 2013

The Plymouth Township Emergency Services Board held its meeting at the Plymouth Township Municipal Building at 7:00 P.M. Board members present were:

Kevin Thomas	Plymouth Community Ambulance and Chairman
Karen Weiss	Township Manager and Board Secretary
Andy Mount	Township Fire Marshal and Vice-Chairman
John Myrsiades	Lieutenant, Plymouth Police Department
Jim Behr	President, Harmonville Fire Company
Mike Pascarella	Harmonville Fire Company
Kevin Lawrence	Chief, Harmonville Fire Company
Mike Gehman	Plymouth Fire Company

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Thomas at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment pertaining to any of the items advertised on the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes September 20, 2012** - Ms. Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2012 and was seconded by Kevin Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**a. Firefighter 1 and 2 Recognition** - Ms. Weiss mentioned that the firefighters from Harmonville and Plymouth Fire Companies who completed their Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 Training were recognized at the Regular Council Meeting in January. Ms. Weiss asked the Board for suggestions on providing additional recognition. The Board discussed and recommended a more personalized form of recognition; perhaps with family members present. It was also suggested that life members of the fire companies who have completed twenty to twenty-five years of service be recognized.

**b. Review Fireworks Ordinance** - Mr. Mount stated that Council was asked to review the fireworks ordinance and that Council approved to the implementation of a \$250.00 permit fee. The Board previously reviewed the ordinance and the Board discussed the purpose of a bond. The Board agreed to ask the Township Solicitor for a recommendation.

**c. Apparatus Discussion** - Council previously asked that the Board and the two fire companies look into staggering major apparatus purchases, specifically the aerial devices approximately ten years apart and establish one list of replacements for the two companies. The Board has already looked at the feasibility study and responded to the recommendations. Part of the study was to consolidate the apparatus plans for both companies and then discuss with the Board prior to making any purchases and then make recommendations to Council. Mr. Pascarella asked if the Board could review the responses that were made to the feasibility study regarding apparatus. He also asked if the chapter responses could be re-circulated to the Board.

**d. Study by the Center for Rural PA** - In 2012, the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services (PFESI) conducted a mail survey of Pennsylvania fire chiefs to identify firefighter recruitment and retention patterns and measure the capacity of fire companies to meet their communities' emergency needs. This report is the second in a series that shares the findings from the survey. The first report focused solely on recruitment and retention issues, while this report looks at fire company capacity.

**e. WC Insurance/Cancer Presumption** - Ms. Weiss stated that because of the unknown cost of the Firefighter Cancer Presumption Law's effect on premiums, DVWCT switched all of their municipalities in Workers Compensation to SWIF. All volunteer firefighters are covered by this. Firefighters must get baseline physicals first, and serve for four years as an active firefighter in order to make any type of cancer claim. Exams can be provided by Professional Health Services which comply with NFPA 1582 medical requirements for firefighters. PHS is a mobile health screening company that can perform this service at a cost of approximately \$305 per firefighter.

Mr. Mount provided the following:

Information on how to use resident firefighter programs to enhance fire staffing.

A request from the State Police Skippack supervising Fire Marshal asking for a list of all individuals in the fire companies who have red and blue light privileges.

Information from Horizon House pertaining to a group home in the Township requiring assistance to evacuate their home in the event of a fire or other emergency. A floor plan of the home was provided.

An Emergency Service Training Program pertaining to recruitment and retention will be held at the King of Prussia VFC in King of Prussia on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at no cost.

A notice from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection pertaining to a reportable release from a non-regulated heating oil tank system at 9 Laurel Lane.

**f.DVHIT** - Ms. Weiss stated that DVHIT is now able to provide a healthcare plan for the four paid employees of the fire companies. The plan is similar to the plan that is currently in effect for the Harmonville employees. The plan was distributed to the two fire companies for their review.

#### **Old Business**

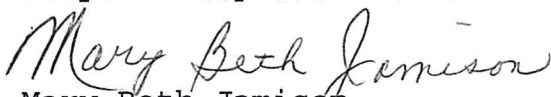
During Hurricane Sandy there were some issues with channel 1 and channel 3 not working. Channel 3 is now working but channel 1 will be looked into.

**Next Meeting - March 21, 2013** - The next Emergency Services Board Meeting will be held on March 21, 2013. Kevin Thomas will be away.

#### **Audience Participation**

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mary Beth Jamison  
Recording Secretary