

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of March 20, 2014

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
Kevin Lawrence	Chief, Harmonville Fire Company
John Myrsiades	Deputy Chief of Police
Jim Behr	Harmonville Fire Company
Ray Stocchi	President Plymouth Fire Company
Mike Gehman	Chief, Plymouth Fire Company
Rob Maxwell	Deputy Fire Chief, Plymouth Fire Company
Darrell Sams	Business Liaison

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Thomas at 7:05 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 January 23, 2014

Kevin Lawrence made a motion to approve the January 23, 2014 minutes. Mike Gehman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

a. Welcome Darrell Sams

The Board welcomed business liaison Darrell Sams this evening. Mr. Sams business is the Markel Corporation and he resides on Penn Road.

b. PPACA - IRS Ruling

Ms. Weiss stated at the last Emergency Services Board meeting there were concerns as to whether the emergency services would have to provide health care benefits to its volunteers. The Internal Revenue Services has made a ruling that they do not. Volunteers are not considered employees. The volunteers are however covered under DVHIT for workers compensation. Ms. Weiss reminded the emergency services that they are not to pay SWIF invoices.

c. Apparatus

Ms. Weiss mentioned that Plymouth Township Council would like to receive a joint apparatus list for the fire companies. The fire companies will have the list prepared by the end of April.

d. Recruitment

The fire companies continue to have problems with recruitment. Ms. Weiss mentioned the recent article in the newspaper that says that volunteers are in short supply. In 1977, there were 300,000 volunteer firefighters. Today, the number is closer to 50,000. This is a growing concern in Pennsylvania. The Board discussed ways of recruiting again such as putting up signs in schools, using the digital sign at the Community Center Park, and the sign at the Plymouth Meeting Mall that is used partially for community announcements.

The Board also mentioned the possibility of creating a video that could be shown at theaters prior to the movie. This item will be kept on the agenda for the next board meeting.

e. Incident Reporting

Ms. Weiss asked if the firehouse software was being used for incident reporting. Plymouth Fire Company is using it but Harmonville is not due to lack of manpower. The Township would like to work together with the fire companies so that all are using the same hardware for quality control as to what kind of reports are being sent to the County or the State. The fire companies will meet with Andy and Len to discuss how to best accomplish this.

f. Plymouth Township Day - May 31, 2014 - 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Ms. Weiss announced the date and time for Plymouth Township Day. She again asked for the assistance of the emergency services providers in order to make the day a success.

Old Business

Andy Mount highlighted the following:

Address description for 134 Plymouth Road.

A Community Risk Analysis/Standards of Cover Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The registration fee is \$325.00. The eight-hour workshop equips fire service personnel to rationally plan for and justify various levels of service. It will cover the latest tools for calculating and analyzing risk and the latest process for mapping deployment and deployment coverage areas, such as Geographic Information System (GIS) software packages.

A report pertaining to an oil leak at 624 Erlen Road. The report details how the leak was alleviated.

Information on E Dispatches.

Valley Square Knox boxes have been moved to the exterior of the building. 3 Valley Square is located in the rear.

Summer Camp programs will be held as follows: 1) July 8th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Plymouth Elementary, 2) July 10th from 9:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. at the Community Center and 3) July 21st from 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center.

Notices from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding 1323 Conshohocken Road, and 2014 Butler Pike.

Map Books

Mr. Mount mentioned that he spoke with Matt Garber from Carroll Engineering regarding the creation of map books using either a digital format or a paper PDF type. The digital format will cost approximately \$5,000. Mr. Mount will continue to look into this in addition to getting a GIS System. He also asked if Township Council put this in the budget. Ms. Bruno stated that she would like to see how the system works.

b.Truck Ownership

Ms. Weiss asked about the truck ownership policy for the fire companies in the event they were to disband. Harmonville's assets would be turned over to the Township. Plymouth Fire Company is continuing to look into this.

Miscellaneous

Kate Harper has sponsored House Bill 202 which includes efforts to reduce or exempt the fire companies and ambulance from paying stand-by fees that are being charged by Aqua, PA. The fees are \$2,400 annually.

The snow removal emergency service response for the fire companies was inadequate this year. Ms. Weiss stated that she has spoken to Chris Loschiavo, the Public Works Director regarding this matter. A new policy will be in effect for next year.

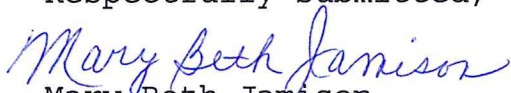
Plymouth Fire Company will be holding a truck housing for their new ladder on August 2nd. In addition a carnival will be taking place from July 29th until August 2nd.

Next Meeting - The next Emergency Services Board Meeting will be held on May 15, 2014.

Audience Participation

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mary Beth Jamison
Recording Secretary