

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of November 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
Kevin Lawrence	Chief, Harmonville Fire Company
Jim Behr	President, Harmonville Fire Company
Ray Stocchi	President Plymouth Fire Company
Mike Gehman	Chief, Plymouth Fire Company
Mike Pascarella	Harmonville Fire Company
Andy Mount	Fire Marshal
Karen Mabry	Lieutenant, Police Department
Lenore Bruno	Plymouth Township Council
Darrell Sams	Business person

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Thomas at 7:02 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 18, 2014

Kevin Lawrence made a motion to approve the September 18, 2014 minutes. Mike Gehman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Mount advised that new street address assignments would now be emailed to the fire companies.

a. Construction Update

Mr. Mount provided information on the following.

Information from the County pertaining to laptop requirements.

Hoarding issues for the fire service. Mr. Mount asked that the fire companies notify both himself and the Township Code Enforcement Department in the event of a hoarding issue. In addition, to notify Social Services so that the hoarder is not permitted back into the home. There are currently two properties with hoarding issues in the Township. One is located on Shasta Road and the other is Sandwood Road.

A list of vacant/dangerous buildings in the Township was provided.

Two new street address assignments.

b.Training Requirements

The Board discussed the levels of classes and courses necessary particularly with regard to officer training. The fire fighters response on the scene is limited to the hours of training that have been met. This will be left on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

c.Recruitment and Retention

The fire companies agreed that there continues to be a problem with recruitment and retention. The fire companies continue to visit schools, have annual awards and pins for service but it is still difficult. They attempt to recruit an older, educated population as well. The fire companies are asking for help from Township Council or perhaps a professional for ideas. Currently according to the Garcia Act, a paid employee can not receive benefits and volunteer at the same time. It was suggested that the Township Solicitor look into this to see if this has changed.

The Board suggested some type of monetary incentives as well. They suggested a reward for length of service, gift cards, gas money, free lunch during training, and perhaps tuition reimbursement. A message calling for volunteers on the electronic signs at the Mall, the Community Center and the Plymouth Square Shopping Center were also suggested. Perhaps businesses could give some type of credit to join the emergency services or be permitted to leave work to answer calls as well.

The Board also recommended investigating to see what other Townships are doing for recruitment and retention of emergency services providers.

This item will be discussed further at the next meeting and in the meantime Council will review in order to appropriate something in the budget for 2015 for this.

d.Incident Reporting

The Board discussed incident reporting and the fact that the firehouse software has not been implemented yet. Mr. Mount stated that incident reporting should be used by the fire companies to share information both to and from the State and it needs to be accurate. This should be completed and input as needed from both stations into a single incident report. The fire companies may need to work with the Township's IT Director, Len Hess in order to accomplish this. The fire companies agreed to look into this and it will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Old Business

a. Map Books

Mr. Mount stated that the Township Public Works Department is getting a GIS mapping system that will show the sanitary and storm sewers on the Township map. The fire companies are also interested in obtaining map books that will show the location of the fire hydrants in the Township.

Mr. Mount suggested contacting the Public Works Director to see if there is anything that can be shared with the fire companies particularly with regard to unsafe structures, medical needs or caution notes from the County.

b. Truck Ownership

At the September meeting, Ms. Weiss asked what would happen with ownership of the trucks for the fire companies in the event that they were to dissolve. Mr. Lawrence stated that it is written in the by-laws of the fire company that the assets go to the Township. Plymouth Fire Company believes that their 501C status would prevent them from giving assets to the Township. Plymouth Township Council would like the Township to be co-owners and for the trucks to also be put in the Township's name. If the trucks were to be sold then the Township would be aware and then receive the assets since it would be a joint ownership. The Board agreed to ask Mr. Speers, the Township Solicitor to look into reviewing the by-laws and Ms. Weiss will request them in writing from the fire companies.

Harmonville Fire Company

Mr. Behr asked a question pertaining to how the current Emergency Services was comprised. Ms. Weiss stated that the ordinance originally stated that the board was to be made up of seven members. The ordinance was then amended and it increased the board to ten. The board is now made up of the following ten individuals. One administrative officer and one fire line officer from each fire company, one ambulance, one Council member, one Township staff, one Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Marshal, one Police Department and one resident or business person. There are no set terms of service.

Plymouth Fire Company

Mike Gehman announced that he did not run for re-election for fire chief. There will be a new chief next year.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Mount thanked the emergency services providers for their assistance during fire prevention week.

Mr. Thomas mentioned Ebola preparedness for the ambulance and that the Police Department and first responders are at risk. The ambulance has received full protective equipment and has received training as to how to respond. There were nineteen reported cases in Montgomery County and each has been cleared.

Next Meeting - January 15, 2015 - The next Emergency Services Board meeting will be held on January 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Audience Participation

None.

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Jamison

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Recording Secretary