

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of January 15, 2015

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
Mike Pascarella	Harmonville Fire Company
Andy Mount	Fire Marshal and Vice-Chairman
John Myrsiades	Deputy Police Chief
Lenore Bruno	Plymouth Township Council
Darrell Sams	Business person
Frank Burton	Vice-President, Plymouth Fire Company
Mike Burton	Fire Chief, Plymouth Fire Company

Also Present	Dean Eisenberger, Plymouth Township Council
	Chuck Luthy, Assistant Chief, Plymouth Fire Company
	Fran Thomas, Treasurer, Plymouth Fire Company

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 November 20, 2014

Action was tabled on the November 20, 2014 minutes. They will be re-circulated to the Board and will be kept on the agenda for the March meeting.

New Business

a. Construction Update

134 Plymouth Road - PARC is a new four-story apartment building complex with 398 units. All buildings have construction permits; two are approved for occupancy. All buildings utilize combustible construction, and have complete coverage fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems. The Entire project is scheduled for completion in 2015.

1010 Conshohocken Road - Norris Sales - New 50,000 square foot warehouse and service facility for sales, service and rental of construction equipment. Building is fully covered with automatic fire sprinkler systems, including ESFR system in warehouse. Insufficient street pressure and flow for fire fighting is supplemented with 120,000 gallon on-site storage cistern with fire pump.

494 Germantown Pike - AMC Theaters - Major interior alterations to the lobby and all 12 theaters are taking place in 2 phases. Existing building is fully covered with automatic sprinkler and fire alarm systems. First phase expected to be completed in January 2015. Project completion anticipated in March, 2015.

531 Germantown Pike - Suite 200 - Interior alterations to an existing 3 story, 20,000 square foot office building. Building is not fire sprinkler protected (floors are subdivided into less than 5,000 square foot areas. Alterations include phased installation of a full coverage fire alarm system.

512 Township Line Road - Valley Square - Existing five building complex of two and three story multi-tenant office buildings. Four of the buildings are in various stages of life safety system upgrades (fire alarm, fire sprinkler, standpipes), interior demolition to "white box" condition, and new tenant fit-out. The fifth building (4 Valley Square) is currently slated for demolition.

421 Alan Wood Road - Danella - New Vehicle Service Facility - Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring, 2015. It will consist of a proposed 18,000 square foot, one-story commercial service building, 3,000 square foot vehicle wash building, and a private fleet fueling facility (diesel and gasoline).

2035 Chemical Road - Chemical Road Storage Partners - Proposed 3 story (4 floors) self-storage building with 25,000 square feet per floor. Building will be fully covered with fire sprinkler systems (wet and dry). Construction is anticipated in 2015.

500 Germantown Pike (Plymouth Meeting Mall) - Billy Beez Activity Center - Proposed interior alterations to the existing mall for a 20,000 square foot indoor child's activity and party center. Construction is anticipated mid-year 2015. Concurrent with this project is the installation of a new mall-wide fire alarm system with emergency voice/alarm communication capability. System completion anticipated by the end of 2015.

Mr. Mount provided a new street address assignment for 421 Alan Wood Road.

Also given was a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection pertaining to a notification for a release from a non-regulated heating oil tank system for Delaware Valley Concrete located at 1100 Conshohocken Road.

Mr. Mount provided information on the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania Recruitment and Retention Training Programs. The location and dates were given.

Keystone Human Services is currently providing services to the residents of 102 W. North Lane, Apt A-3, in Conshohocken. Attached to the letter was a floor plan to provide support in the event of an emergency situation.

Information regarding the Charles W. Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Services Tuition Reimbursement Program was offered.

b.Training Requirements

The Board tabled action on the training requirements.

c.Recruitment and Retention

The board discussed suggestions from different counties which included social media such as visiting high schools. Mr. Mount stated that he also noticed that there are commercials for recruitment for Willow Grove.

The board suggested recruitment for elders as well where more professional experience is also needed.

d.Incident Reporting

Mr. Mount stated that he has contacted Len Hess, the IT Director for the Township, Matt McCloskey and Mitch Kijak pertaining to moving forward with incident reporting for the fire companies. A meeting is scheduled for January 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

e.Reorganization

Ms. Weiss nominated Kevin Thomas for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Andy Mount and passed unanimously.

Ms. Bruno nominated Andy Mount for Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Deputy Chief Myrsiades and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence nominated Karen Weiss for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mount and passed unanimously.

Old Business

Map Books

Ms. Weiss mentioned that the Township Code Enforcement Department has purchased a new scanner. This should help with preparing new map books which can be more easily read.

Truck Ownership

Ms. Weiss thanked the fire companies for sending the by-laws to her for review by the Township Solicitor pertaining to truck ownership.

Plymouth Fire Company

Mike Gehman will now be the Assistant Fire Chief for the fire company.

Plymouth Fire Company will not be holding a fund drive for 2015.

Mr. Eisenberger explained the new fire tax assessment that Council has implemented.

The fire companies discussed the fund drive. Mr. Eisenberger stated that even with the implementation of the fire tax assessment that the fire companies should still consider having fund drives.

The Board discussed and suggested that the Township put a notification in the Township newsletter explaining about the new fire tax and the fund drives that are held for the fire companies.

The Board also suggested possibly putting something in with the Township tax bills explaining that the fire companies may continue to hold fund drives in the future.

Mr. Pascarella stated that in the long term there needs to be different ways of raising revenues for the fire companies. He suggested a Partners in Safety Program where businesses in the Township are asked to underwrite a piece of safety equipment in return for free advertising.

The Board also discussed whether the fire companies can bill insurance companies for responding to calls on the Blue Route and the Turnpike.

Police

None.

Ambulance

None.

Next Meeting - March 19, 2015 - The next Emergency Services Board meeting will be held on March 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Audience Participation

None.

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Jamison
Recording Secretary