

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of November 17, 2016

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

Kevin Thomas	Plymouth Community Ambulance/Chairman
Kevin Lawrence	Chief, Harmonville Fire Company
Andy Mount	Fire Marshal and Vice-Chairman
John Myrsiades	Deputy Police Chief
Dean Eisenberger	Plymouth Township Council
Jim Behr	President, Harmonville Fire Company
Ray Stocchi	President, Plymouth Fire Company

Absent:

Lenore Bruno	Council Representative to the Board
Darrell Sams	Citizen Representative
Karen Weiss	Manager and Board Secretary
Mike Burton	Chief, 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: September 17, 2015 - The September 17, 2015 minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business

Andy Mount stated that a review of the Township's fire protection was completed with a new ISO rating of 3 received. The previous rating was a 4. This review is an analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided in the Township. In order to acquire a better rating in the future, the Township will need improvement in two areas. Some type of manning by the fire companies or major improvements in the water system. The new rating is important to communities and fire departments. Communities whose rating improves, may experience lower insurance rates. Mr. Mount suggested that this improvement be publically announced with Council at a public meeting and a press release.

Mr. Mount distributed information from the Department of Environmental Protection pertaining to various locations in the Township.

Information was received from Brilliant Environmental Services, LLC pertaining to a notification of reportable release for the Lukoil Service Station located at 199 Germantown Pike.

Construction Update - Andy Mount provided a written construction update as well as additional information as follows:

601 West Germantown Pike, the old Houlihan's Restaurant has been demolished. Two new retail tenants and one restaurant are proposed.

The home located at Walton and Apollo Roads was demolished to make way for a Goddard School daycare center.

A CVS is being constructed at Butler Pike and Plymouth Road.

Conicelli Honda, located at 1100 Ridge Pike, demolished its service building and is constructing a new 50,000 square foot fully sprinklered non-combustible building with a pedestrian bridge to the sales building.

Legoland, located at the Plymouth Meeting Mall, is building a 30,000 square foot assembly use/ 1,200 occupant indoor amusement venue located on the lower level of the Mall. Opening is scheduled for April/May 2017.

The office building at 510 Township Line Road is undergoing substantial core and façade alterations and renovations to the two story, multi-tenant office building.

Danella Maintenance Facility, located at 421 Alan Wood Road, is a new two building rental equipment maintenance facility with AST fleet fueling. The buildings are complete, and the fleet fueling portion is under construction.

Tornetta's, "Proving Grounds" at 725 Conshohocken Road is constructing a two-story concession building.

Covanta, located at 1175 Conshohocken Road, is building a one-story, 5,000 square foot building expansion for extraction of recyclable metals from ash. The building is fully sprinkler protected with a pre-action system.

Super WAWA, at 1300 Ridge Pike, will have a new convenience store with twenty self-service fuel pumps.

A meeting was held today with architects employed by a property owner pertaining to Metroplex 2. This previously approved land development includes a six story parking garage and an eleven story building. This will be located between the Blue Route, Chemical Road and Germantown Pike. The architects requested that certain information be provided to them relative to code provisions regarding public safety/firefighting issues. It is anticipated that repeaters will most likely be needed so that radios will be able to work inside the building. However, the code also allows for an alternate communication system to utilize a hardwired phone with connections to the stairtowers and at the command center. This was discussed by the Board, and Harmonville Fire Company and Plymouth Fire Company approved the radio repeaters.

The building is also required by the building code to be equipped with a dedicated fire service elevator, equipped with a light in the shaft. The light can be connected to the fire alarm to come on automatically with activation of the fire alarm or it can be equipped with a manual switch located at the command center. Harmonville and Plymouth Fire Companies chose to have this light connected to the fire alarm.

Classroom expansions and HVAC upgrades have been proposed for Ridge Park & Plymouth Elementary Schools. It is expected that installation of fire sprinkler systems and updates/expansion of fire alarm systems will be completed throughout both schools. Construction is anticipated in the Summer, 2017.

New Radios

The Board discussed the new radios that the emergency services are in the process of purchasing. Delays on distribution by the County due to product issues required Motorola to extend warranties to the date of delivery, not date of purchase.

Apparatus Liens

The Board previously discussed the possibility of the Township putting a lien on the title of the trucks that the fire companies own to prevent them from being sold without the Township's knowledge. This would help to make sure that Council is notified in the event that the organizations were to dissolve. Harmonville Fire Company explained that it is in their by-laws that if this were to occur, all assets were to be turned over to the Township. Council is planning on discussing this with the Township Solicitor.

Incident Reporting

Mr. Mount stated that the Fire Marshal's office has been using the firehouse Cloud for tracking equipment and incident reporting. He has purchased two tablets and is putting together a program to have check off sheets for inspections. This is expected to be up and running by next year. If the fire companies would like to use the system, they can. However, additional work would be required to ensure accurate data is reported to the State Fire Commissioner's office and USFA.

It was discussed and agreed that a process and policy should be put in place to determine how to make this work for both fire companies.

Mr. Eisenberger recommended having a meeting with both fire companies regarding this before January. The Township's IT manager should also attend.

Old Business

a. GIS Mapping

Mr. Mount stated that Carroll Engineering has put together maps for the emergency services. However, the roadways for private developments were not shown on it. The emergency services already have information on the active 911 system. Mr. Mount asked if he should continue to look into obtaining map books. The board discussed and agreed that Mr. Mount should contact Carroll Engineering again in order to pursue this.

Mr. Behr suggested rotating the chairmanship for the board. Mr. Eisenberger said that it is up to the board to elect the chairman, at its re-organization meeting in January of each year.

Miscellaneous

Harmonville Fire Company will have a new president and new fire chief in January.

Mr. Eisenberger stated that it came to his attention that the board had not held a meeting in over a year. He stated that the board should meet every three months as stated in the ordinance and that public safety is paramount.

Mr. Eisenberger mentioned that there are only two eight inch mains in front of 1000 Conshohocken Road. Property owners are forced to install cisterns for firefighting and sprinklers which is unacceptable. PA American company is doing a major infrastructure upgrade in the Black Horse residential area of the Township.

Mr. Eisenberger mentioned that construction work still needs to be done at the Plymouth Rock Apartments, due to the fire on October 31, 2015. Residents are complaining about the eyesore there.

Council will be re-organizing in January. They are one hundred percent behind all of the emergency services.

Mr. Eisenberger stated that safety renovations are being planned for the Township building. In addition, a consultant has been hired and five proposals have been received for a Master Plan Study for the Township campus renovation and expansion project.

The Township is negotiating a contract for the installation of a cell tower on the property.

Mr. Eisenberger thanked the emergency services for the work that they do and stated that public safety is the top priority.

Next Meeting - January 19, 2017


The next meeting of the board will take place on January 19, 2017.

Audience Participation

None

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mary Beth Jamison
Recording Secretary