

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of September 21, 2017

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

Andy Mount	Fire Marshal and Vice-Chairman
Lt. Karen Mabry	Plymouth Township Police Department
Mike Burton	Chief, Plymouth Fire Company
Ray Stocchi	President, Plymouth Fire Company/Chairman
Matt McCloskey	Harmonville Fire Company
John Hoffman	Harmonville Fire Company
Lenore Bruno	Plymouth Township Council
Karen Weiss	Township Manager and Board Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Stocchi 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: July 20, 2017 - Andy Mount made a motion to approve the July 20th minutes and was seconded by Mike Burton. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a.Apparatus Liens

Ms. Weiss stated that Plymouth Fire Company has plans to replace a truck. The Township wants to be a lien holder, second in line to the finance company. The Township will need to have the contact information for the finance company. Mike Burton will provide this information to Ms. Weiss.

Mike Burton asked if the Township could provide a statement or policy pertaining to it being the lien holder for the fire company's vehicles. Mr. Burton asked for a resolution that would explain why and how the vehicles will be transferred in the future. Mr. Burton asked if the Township is planning on taking ownership of the vehicles. Ms. Weiss explained that the Township is not taking ownership. The vehicles are

being titled to the fire companies; the Township would just be a lien holder. This will prevent the fire company from selling the truck without permission from the Township. Mr. Burton stated that Plymouth Fire Company is not opposed to the idea.

b. Act 172

Ms. Weiss stated that Council discussed Act 172 which was adopted in 2016 and is amenable to implementing some benefit for active volunteers. Act 172 permits municipalities to offer tax credits, either earned income or property tax credits, or both, to volunteers of the fire companies and the ambulance who reside in the Township. Council was in favor but tasked the Board to determine what an "active" volunteer means for Plymouth Township.

Ms. Weiss stated that one of the problems with the real estate tax credit is that volunteers may not own property or reside in Plymouth Township. With the earned income tax credit a volunteer may live in the Township but work in another municipality so Plymouth Township can't refund the money. Council believes that the preferred way would be for the Township to give an extra allocation such as a block grant to fund a kitty. The volunteers who qualify would get a portion of the block grant. Both fire companies would apply the same criteria. The Township would then pass an ordinance and a resolution pertaining to this. Ms. Weiss provided samples from other townships to the Board.

The fire companies will meet separately to discuss criteria for active volunteers. Kevin Thomas from Plymouth Community Ambulance will also be included in the discussion.

c. Construction Update

Mr. Mount stated that there is an issue pertaining to Conshohocken Recycling & Rail's DEP permit modification request. They want to change the pile heights from eight feet to twelve feet. Additional height means more material on the floor. There is limited water supply for firefighting on Conshohocken Road, and any additional quantity of material is problematic.

The Township is also concerned about some of the materials that they want to store on site. These include shingles, roofing materials and tires. Tires on rims should not be allowed as they can explode during a fire causing injury to fire fighters and other emergency responders. All of these require much higher flow rates for extinguishing fires. There are trailers on site that need to have sprinklers installed or be removed. There are also additional comments from the Township.

The following homes have been posted by the Township as being uninhabitable due to hoarding issues: 1) 1436 Sandwood, 2) 818 Renel and 3) 9 Red Rowan Lane.

Andy Mount provided the construction update as follows:

Active Projects

The Township received a land development application for an assisted living facility called Arbor Square. It will be located between the Blue Route, Corsons Lane and Plymouth Road. It is a four story building, with 210 units.

Two more hotels are planned for Lee Drive.

Ridge Park & Plymouth Elementary Schools underwent additions and alterations over the Summer. The classroom expansions, HVAC upgrades and the retrofit installation of fire sprinkler systems throughout both schools were completed in time for the first day of school.

500 Germantown Pike, Space 1345 located at the Plymouth Meeting Mall - "5 Wits" - This is a 14,000 square foot assembly use, 450 occupant indoor amusement venue (on the "escape room" model) located across from LEGoland. Opening is scheduled for third or fourth quarter 2017. Portions of the space are classified "Special Amusement Building". The entire space is covered by emergency voice/alarm communications as an extension of the Mall EVACS.

518 Township Line Road - Major Alterations -Substantial core and façade alterations and renovations are being made to a three story, 126,000 square foot multi-tenant office building. This building currently has an ambulatory health care facility tenant on the first floor.

1525 Alan Wood Road (SEPTA - Frontier Bus Depot) - Alterations and Renovations - Major renovations are planned to the existing facility (buildings and site), which is comprised of two existing buildings on the ten acre site. The building work area includes the two story, 40,000 square foot bus repair and maintenance garage and the one story, 9,000 square foot bus wash building.

Upcoming Projects

502 Germantown Pike - Major Alterations - This project is carried over from the previous list.

518 Township Line Road - RSM US, LLP - 44,000 square foot single tenant fit-out of the entire third floor of the building. Construction start is imminent.

725 Conshohocken Road (the Proving Grounds) - New athletic fields and facilities. This project is carried over from the previous list.

4000 Chemical Road - (Metroplex - Office area) - High -rise office and parking garage. This is a twelve story office building. This project is carried over from the previous list.

Plymouth Woods Office Complex - Mid-rise or high-rise office - Demolition of two (2) one story office buildings, and construction of either a 5 story or a 7 story office building. The high-rise option will also have a two level parking structure. Project is in Land Development review.

420 Plymouth Road - Ilera Healthcare - Adaptive reuse of an existing 3,000 square foot bank building as a medical marijuana dispensary. Building plans have been submitted for "informal" plan review.

d.Fire Prevention Activity

Andy Mount provided a tentative 2017 School Fire Drill schedule.

e.Incident Reporting

Andy Mount stated that he met with John Hoffman and Mitch Kijak to discuss the Firehouse Software. Mr. Hoffman wanted an opportunity to look at it and to use it. Mr. Mount suggested that perhaps Mr. Kijak and Mr. Hoffman could look at the program on his computer to see how it operates. Harmonville will be given a password to access Firehouse software via the website.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he would like to utilize the program for training and equipment records and for inventory. Mr. Hoffman questioned the administrative access on the Firehouse Software. Mr. Hoffman was concerned about security issues on information that is available on the program.

Mr. Kijak had questions on coding different zones for mutual aid. He believes that this could be an issue. Mr. Mount stated that the reporting would still be seen as one incident even though there are two reports. Mr. Kijak will email his questions prior to the next meeting in order to obtain additional answers.

Mr. Mount advised that he will contact the Firehouse Software Company directly regarding Mr. Kijak's questions and concerns.

f.Police Department Update

None.

g.Harmonville Fire Company Update

As of September 1st the fire company has responded to 514 events. Approximately sixteen additional events are scheduled including the Brad Fox Run.

An employee resigned from the fire company. Interviews are being conducted.

Any open shifts are being covered by part-time employees.

The fire company is starting to receive Federal grants for equipment purchases.

h.Plymouth Fire Company Update

The fire company has plans for a squirt replacement. The purchase is anticipated to be under budget.

The fire company's annual banquet will take place on Saturday, November 11th at Plymouth County Club.

i.Plymouth Ambulance Update

None

j.Mutual Aid Ideas

Mr. Mount mentioned that at the January Board meeting, Councilman Eisenberger asked about Mutual Aid and how the Township is compensated for use of its vehicles and personnel. He was concerned about financial compensation to the Township. The fire companies agreed that the Mutual Aid has been decreasing and that they would prefer to leave things as they currently are. The Mutual Aid agreement between the communities works. In the end, it is all equal between the municipalities.

k.Emergency Operations Plan

Mr. Mount stated that he has been discussing the Township's Emergency Operations Plan with Deputy Chief Myrsiades. There are concerns that there are no incident specific type plans for an emergency.

There is a pandemic plan at the Montgomery County Vocational Technical School. There is going to be a drill and there may be a request for traffic control from the Fire Police.

Deputy Chief Myrsiades is looking for specific plans or guidelines for certain types of emergency incidents, for example a train derailment. He would like to have the fire companies and Plymouth Ambulance participate with developing these plans.

Mr. Mount will look into what equipment needs may be necessary in the Township ready room in the Police Department.

Deputy Chief Myrsiades and Mr. Mount would like to see these plans implemented in the Township sometime in the near future, hopefully within a year or two.

1. Miscellaneous

Both Plymouth and Harmonville Fire Companies will meet before the next Emergency Services Board Meeting in order to discuss Act 172 and incident reporting.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting - November 16, 2017

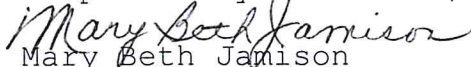
The next meeting of the board will take place on November 16, 2017.

Audience Participation

None

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mary Beth Jamison
Recording Secretary