

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of July 20, 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
John Myrsiades	Deputy Police Chief
Mike Burton	Chief, Plymouth Fire Company
Ray Stocchi	President, Plymouth Fire Company/Chairman
Dean Eisenberger	Plymouth Township Council Chairman
Karen Weiss	Township Manager and Board Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Stocchi at 7:10 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: May 18, 2017 - Mr. Mount made a motion to approve the May 18th minutes and was seconded by Deputy Chief Myrsiades. The motion passed 6-0.

New Business

a. Apparatus Liens

Harmonville Fire Company's By-Laws state, that if the company were to dissolve, all of its assets will go to Plymouth Township. Plymouth Fire Company's do not have this provision. They are waiting for their Solicitor to review their By-Laws. The Township Solicitor has suggested that because By-Laws can be easily changed (without notice to the Township), a better way to protect the assets is for Plymouth Township to be a lien holder on the titles to all vehicles. The Township would hold all the titles at the Township Building. If the fire companies ever decide to sell one of its vehicles, the Township would have to agree.

Mr. Eisenberger stated that the Township needs to have some type of protection for its investment in fire apparatus. The fire companies would continue to be the owners of their vehicles. This way the fire companies and the Township are protected. Safety is paramount to the Township.

Ms. Weiss stated that the older trucks would most likely need to be re-titled with the Township listed as the lien holder.

b. Fire Service Delivery Study

Montgomery County has contracted with VFIS, a private insurance firm that specializes in insurance to volunteer fire and emergency services organizations. VFIS will help the County Department of Public Safety analyze the current and future fire delivery system needs and capabilities for the next twenty years. Plymouth Fire Company will provide the County with all of the information that they need. Harmonville and Plymouth Ambulance were absent, but presumably received the same letter from Tom Sullivan.

construction Update

Andy Mount presented the construction update as follows:

Active Projects

1. Ridge Park & Plymouth Elementary Schools - Classroom expansions and HVAC upgrades to both schools. Installation of fire sprinkler systems throughout both schools will accompany the work. Construction is anticipated to be sufficiently complete for occupancy by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

2. 500 Germantown Pike, Space 1345 (Plymouth Meeting Mall) - "5 Wits" - 14,000 square foot assembly use, 450 occupant indoor amusement venue (on the "escape room" model) located on the lower level of the Mall across from LEGOLand. Opening is scheduled for third 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.

3. 510 Township Line Road & Rothman Institute - Office Building - Substantial core and façade alterations and renovations to the two story, multi-tenant office building. Separately, a 15,000 square foot tenant fit-out for Rothman Institute orthopedics and rehabilitation clinic is underway.

Upcoming Projects

1. 502 Germantown Pike - Major Alterations - Phased selective demolition, asbestos removal, and façade alterations and renovations to a nine story, 20,000 square foot/floor multi-tenant office building. Awaiting revised applications and plans.

2.518 Township Line Road - Major Alterations - Substantial core and façade alterations and renovations to a three story, 126,000 square foot multi-tenant office building. A formal plan submission is in review. Plans for a tenant fit-out for the entire third floor are expected shortly.

3.1525 Alan Wood Road (SEPTA - Frontier Bus Depot) - Alterations and Renovations - Major renovations to the existing facility (buildings and site), which is comprised of two existing buildings on the 10 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. Plans and applications are under review. Construction is expected to commence later this year.

4.725 Conshohocken Road (the Proving Grounds) - New athletic fields and facilities - Phased construction of two additional athletic fields (there are four existing fields and associated facilities) and associated parking, bleacher seating, and toilet facilities on the tract. Plans are to include supplemental water distribution for domestic and firefighting. Project currently in Land Development review and informal Building Code discussions.

5.4000 Chemical Road (Metroplex-Office Area) - High rise office and parking garage. Pre-application discussions regarding a proposed twelve story office building and separate five level parking structure. Discussions thus far have focused on fire services and access to the proposed structures, and a fire sprinkler in the parking structure. The project is in design.

d. New Radios Update

All of the new radios have been delivered to the emergency services and the police department.

e. Incident Reporting

Mr. Mount stated that he has spoken to Mitch Kijak from Plymouth Fire Company and John Hoffman from Harmonville Fire Company regarding incident reporting. Harmonville was under a misconception as to how difficult the program is to use. Mr. Mount is going to provide Harmonville Fire Company with a disc with the Firehouse Software on it and perhaps either Mr. Kijak or himself will outline how to use it.

f. Police Department Update

Deputy Chief Myrsiades stated that the board previously talked about the possibility of getting together with the police department to do training once a year. It was agreed that a room was necessary for such. Deputy Chief Myrsiades is suggesting that the police roll call room be used for this. Phones can be plugged in and there is availability for up to twenty-four laptops. In addition, portable radios could be used and there will be a fax machine, scanner, copier and a kitchenette. The training will be available for each chief of the fire companies as well as to Council and Township officials. It will be a fully functional room with adequate cell phone coverage. The Township IT Director will be available in case there are any problems. The Board agreed to do the training in March.

g. Harmonville Fire Company Update

No members from Harmonville Fire Company were present at the meeting this evening.

h. Plymouth Fire Company Update

The fire company is in the process of replacing its squirt and is waiting for the specifications. They would like to use funds from the Township capital reserve as the down payment. The purchase is under what was originally budgeted. The current squirt is from 1999. The new squirt will be delivered in 2019.

Room rentals are going well.

The fireworks display went well this year.

i. Plymouth Ambulance Update

No members from Plymouth Ambulance were present at the meeting this evening.

j. Mutual Aid Ideas

Mutual aid ideas were discussed by the Board.

k. Emergency Operations Plan

Suggestions for the Emergency Operations Plan were discussed by the Board. Mr. Mount stated that he would like to discuss the possibility of initiating training for incidents and active shooter. He is recommending that a committee be formed which could include a representative from each fire company.

l. Miscellaneous

Ms. Weiss mentioned the initiation of Act 172. This act was signed into law last year and allows for municipalities to provide some type of tax relief to volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. There was a sub-committee that was formed by the County that was to study the Act. The State Fire Commissioner is to provide some guidelines regarding this as well as the DCED. There are limits to the Act from the State.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting - September 21, 2017

The next meeting of the board will take place on September 21, 2017.

Audience Participation

None

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Jamison
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Recording Secretary