

## **MINUTES OF MEETING SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD**

The Springfield Township Emergency Services Board held a meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 5:44 PM

Members present: F. DePaul; G. Wilmot III; J. Lesniak; J. Green-Azeff; M. Pitkow; J. Lee; P. DePaul III and R. Chiarlanza.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Motion was made (Pitkow, Lesniak) to dispense with reading of the June minutes; they were accepted as corrected.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Robert Chiarlanza, EMC**

EMC Chiarlanza discussed the emergency management tabletop exercise that was conducted on Monday June 23, 2025, at 6:30 PM. Details of the scenario included a large hurricane predicted to hit the region with damaging winds and flooding rain. The tabletop was held at the Springfield High School library and was regarded as successful.

EMC Chiarlanza discussed the possibility of conducting a full-scale exercise next year and requested the committee members start thinking of scenario's most likely to affect Springfield Township.

EMC Chiarlanza reminded the committee members that we are entering the peak of hurricane season and to prepare accordingly.

### **SPRINGFIELD POLICE: Chief Michael Pitkow**

Chief Pitkow discussed the successful National Night Out event held at the Springfield Township Police Station on Tuesday, August 5. Chief Pitkow highlighted attendees such as two Montgomery County Commissioners, Montgomery County Sheriff Sean Kilkenny, State Representative Napoleon Nelson, staff from State Senator Art Haywood's office, and the Springfield Women's Group. Chief Pitkow discussed the possibility of a combined event next year with Whitemarsh Township.

Chief Pitkow discussed the upcoming Springfield Township Community Day event scheduled for Sunday, October 5. Despite there being no race event this year, Chief Pitkow anticipates a large turnout.

Chief Pitkow discussed a group home zoning violation discovered by officers along the 400 block of Bethlehem Pike, in the Erdenheim section of Springfield Township. He

advised the committee that a zoning violation letter had been sent to the property owner by the Zoning Officer.

**AMBLER AMBULANCE: Deputy Chief Jennifer Green-Azeff**

Deputy Chief Green-Azeff reported that the Community Ambulance Association of Ambler plans to attend State Representative Napoleon Nelson's fifth annual Senior Fair on September 18 as well as Springfield Township Community Day on Sunday, October 5.

**FLOURTOWN FIRE COMPANY: Chief George Wilmot III**

Chief Wilmot discussed the vacancy of PHMC at the Carson Valley Children's Aid Campus and inquired as to the status of the plans in the short-term and long-term. Fire Marshal DePaul explained that PHMC plans to vacate the property entirely by mid-September and the Trustees of the Robert Carson Trust are in the process of hiring a property management company to oversee the property. The property management company will be responsible for performing high level repairs as well as regular maintenance to ensure the buildings and property are maintained. The School House operations ceased on August 21, and that property is expected to be listed for sale.

Chief Wilmot discussed Complete Care at Harston Hall, 350 Haws Lane, in Flourtown, particularly the automatic fire alarm system, combustible storage along the perimeter, and parking along fire lanes. Fire Marshal DePaul explained that the facility has requested to remove the fire alarm system from the original building due to system trouble codes and because they are no longer providing patient care in that part of the complex. It was agreed that the fire alarm must be repaired, and that permission to remove the alarm from any portion of the facility will be expressly prohibited. Fire Marshal DePaul reported he has a scheduled fire safety inspection of the facility on Friday, September 5. The committee discussed the possibility of redefining the fire lanes and "No Parking By Order of Fire Marshal" designated areas. The Fire Marshal will investigate the parking situation and make changes as needed.

Chief Wilmot discussed the road conditions and low hanging vegetation along Northwestern Ave off Ridge Pike, in the panhandle section of Springfield Township. Chief Wilmot was pleased to hear that code enforcement sent letters to the property owners on the Springfield side of the roadway, requesting they trim their trees and objectionable vegetation. Fire Marshal DePaul reported that the City of Philadelphia has milled the roadway in its entirety and plans to re-pave the roadway within the next week or two. The committee will be made aware of the exact dates for paving.

Chief Wilmot discussed the Flourtown Shopping Center (FSC), particularly the fire alarm system, addresses, and Knox Box. The Fire Marshal is working with the property management company to resolve these issues.

Chief Wilmot discussed the feasibility of requiring commercial Knox Box installations on all commercial properties. The Fire Marshal will contact other municipalities who have such an ordinance already in place for more information. The committee asked the Township to publish Knox information for commercial and residential platforms on social media to increase awareness. The Fire Marshal will work with the Communications Manager to achieve this.

**WYNDMOOR HOSE COMPANY: Chief Francis DePaul**

Chief DePaul reported that the annual police & fire car show took place on Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 4 pm to 8 pm. Chief DePaul reported 85-90 cars in attendance, and the show was widely regarded as successful.

Chief DePaul expressed concern over the numerous dispatches to 914 E. Willow Grove Ave for reported building fires. The fire companies have been dispatched to the property three times in the past month due to smoke resulting from coffee roasting operations. The committee requested the Township building inspector check the roasting and exhaust process to verify code compliance. The Fire Marshal will coordinate the inspection with the building department.

Chief DePaul expressed concern over the numerous false fire alarm activations at 8833 Stenton Ave (Chestnut Hill Lodge) and 850 Paper Mill Rd (Accela Rehab & Nursing). The Fire Marshal has submitted citations to District Court for both properties, and the fire company has not been dispatched for a false alarm since the citations were filed. Fire Marshal DePaul also noted that Accela Rehab & Nursing recently submitted permit applications for fire alarm and sprinkler upgrades.

**ORELAND FIRE COMPANY: Deputy Chief Joelle Lesniak**

Deputy Chief Lesniak inquired as to the status of updated map books for fire response. The Fire Marshal will follow up with Township staff regarding this request. Township staff are looking at multiple options to achieve the desired result.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT: James Lee**

Commissioner Lee reported that Mr. Patrick Hynes and Mr. Stephen Heverin were both reappointed to the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC).

Commissioner Lee reported that Ms. Aimee Samtmann was reappointed to the Police Civil Service Commission.

Commissioner Lee reported that Mr. Ted Bell was reappointed to the Shade Tree Commission.

Commissioner Lee reported the Avondale Rd stormwater project was completed by Public Works and Ply Mar Construction prior to the roadway being resurfaced as part of the annual resurfacing program.

Commissioner Lee provided the committee with an update on the Springfield Township Recreation Center Project, and advised the Board is considering more affordable options.

Commissioner Lee reported the Board is considering renewing a three-year lease to the tenant at the Flourtown Country Club (FCC).

### **FIRE MARSHAL: Pat DePaul III**

Fire Marshal DePaul inquired as to who wishes to host the annual Emergency Services Appreciation Dinner for this year. It was agreed upon that the Oreland Fire Company would host the event on Monday, November 24.

The Fire Marshal updated the committee on the commercial building fire at 601 Bethlehem Pike.

The Fire Marshal updated the committee on the status of the restaurant located at 700 Bethlehem Pike. The restaurant had been previously closed due to numerous code violations. The property owner is working with the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector to remedy those violations. It is anticipated the restaurant will be re-opening in the near future.

The Fire Marshal updated the committee on the status of the Oreland Laundromat. The business had been previously closed due to numerous code violations. The tenant is working with the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector to remedy those violations. Building and electrical permits were submitted to the Building Department recently.

Fire Marshal DePaul discussed the citations issued to 8833 Stenton Ave (Chestnut Hill Rehab), and 850 Paper Mill Rd (Accela Nursing & Rehab), as well as the steps these facilities are taking to eliminate false alarms.

The Fire Marshal updated the committee on the status of the Opus Pickleball Club located at 900 E. Mermaid Lane. DePaul advised the committee that the building is fully sprinklered and the automatic fire alarm had passed its final inspection. The Building Department anticipates issuing the Use & Occupancy permit in the near future. DePaul will contact the property owner regarding the installation of a Knox Box.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Fire Marshal DePaul discussed the previous plan review of the Mount St. Joseph's Field House Addition. DePaul advised the committee that the existing hydrant will be updated, a new additional hydrant will be installed, the fire department connection (FDC) will be 5" Storz and located adjacent to the main entrance, the fire alarm control panel (FACP)

will be located inside the main entrance, and a Knox Box will be installed adjacent to the main entrance.

Fire Marshal DePaul handed out maps of the Morris Arboretum complex with updated addresses. The addresses have been sent to the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety to be placed into the CAD. DePaul advised the committee that the new molecular research laboratory located at 315 Research Drive contained a single 5-gallon container of flammable liquid located inside an approved cabinet. DePaul also advised the committee that the FDC and Knox Box locations had been added to the CAD for this address.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Fire Marshal DePaul advised the committee of the successful completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual smoke alarm giveaway program. \$2,450.00 in funds were obtained from local businesses and 111 BRK 10-year smoke alarms have been ordered from Denney Electric in Ambler. DePaul anticipates giving them away to residents in need during Fire Prevention Week in October. DePaul advised the committee he plans to give at least two boxes of alarms to each fire company to give away as needed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat DePaul  
Fire Marshal/Code Enforcement Officer