

Chester County EMS Council, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
September 14, 2011 Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Leo Scaccia called the meeting to order at 4:12 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance with the following in attendance:

Ed Atkins
Robert Fleming

Jeff Gewertz
Frank Sullivan

Field Services Division:

Pat Cook
Chrissy DePaolantonio
Steve Webb

Robert Linnenbaugh
Harry Moore

Visitors / Guests:

Jeff Emmons, DES, Emergency Management

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the July 13, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. Reports

3.1 Commissioners

Director Atkins reported the 911 statistics. Overall telephone, radio and EMD formal reviews are at or above 98%.

Hurricane Irene left Chester County with an average of 8 inches of rain. There were 600 fire/EMS calls; 2,300 police calls; 30 swift water rescues; and 117,000 power outages. The EOC expanded to level III for 40 hours and 2 shelters were opened for 20 hours. DES hosted a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment; Individual assessment approved and there are loans available. A Public assistance declaration is highly likely.

Tropical Storm Lee left Chester County with an average of 7 inches of rain. There were flash floods in Downingtown, the Avondale Apartments flooded for the second time in two weeks, and the storm affected more than 90 homes in North Coventry Township. We hosted a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment today; doesn't look like Individual assistance will be available, maybe public assistance.

Mutual Aid Assistance was requested: For Hurricane Irene, 8 ambulances and the command element deployed to New Jersey to assist with evacuations. For Tropical Storm Lee, Boats deployed to Lancaster, Incident Management personnel to Luzerne County, and 5 ambulances to Berks County to assist with evacuations.

Re-Banding:

Director Atkins met with David Furth, the Deputy Chief of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission. Mr. Furth remains adamant that we need to continue Re-Banding in spite of the narrowing gap between the end of the Re-Banding and operations on the new system. Law Enforcement has been completed; Fire/EMS is in the stages now.

Voice Radio Project:

During the week of August 29, DES hosted 10 potential vendors for a site visit as they prepare proposals that are due on November 21. The emergency responders remain heavily engaged in and very supportive of this project.

New Fire/EMS Paging System:

DES received three proposals for the system infrastructure. They are being reviewed by our consultant, ACD Telecom and the emergency responders and DES members of the Proposal Review Team. A recommendation is being compiled now as to the best value for the County for the infrastructure vendor.

Training Facility:

The site development plan was approved by South Coatesville Borough at the end of July. The Facilities Department expects the request for bids for the site development work to be issued in September with work beginning in December. Proposals for the design of the Tactical Village are due on September 22. Proposals for the renovation of the Academic Building are due September 28. Renovations should begin in October with the work completed by June 2012.

Southeastern PA Regional Task Force:

The Homeland Security Grant funds will decrease in 2012 but as a Tier I Urban Area, we should continue to receive funding although it may be reduced from the 18 to 20 million dollars per year we have received in the past. Equipment received from the Task Force last month include: Decontamination equipment and 2 trailers for the Fire/EMS all terrain vehicles.

3.2 Deputy Director

Deputy Director Webb reported about the Strike Team deployments. 1st was to New Jersey: 47 units, 103 providers, 8 Chester County units. Several hundred patients transported between 911 calls, transports, and picking up medical equipment. 2nd was to Berks County to help evacuate patients from Wernersville State Hospital. 5 Chester County units were deployed. Steve and Harry were asked to bring 50 cots to Norristown Hospital from the MSEC trailer. Field Services is working on admin issues when it comes to a strike team deployment with the state. A small discussion was held for different ideas that were offered.

EMT Class is going well. We only lost 2 students so far.

The western Regionalization project is moving forward. They are at the point of implementation. The planning phase is completed. More to follow at the next meeting.

IV. Committee Report

4.1 Finance

There is nothing new to report other than interest.

4.2 Medical Advisory

There was no State or Regional MAC meeting in July. The next meeting is scheduled for September 27th. Dr. Kaulback will give an update on Paoli Hospital and the Lucas devices' will be handed out to ALS services.

4.3 Training

Training Coordinator Linnenbaugh announced the Instructor class at the end of the month. Looking to schedule the Fall class and there is a pending EMT graduation.

4.4 Operations

Did not meet in July. Next meeting is scheduled for September 27. The rehab trailers are in service and Jeff Gewertz spoke briefly in regards to that.

President Scaccia met with CCH about what the hospital can do to better the EMS relationship in the County and vice versa. Leo asked if Operations would look into legitimate concerns through-out the County and look into performance reviews. More to follow on that...

4.5 Disaster

Jeff Emmons from Emergency Management is currently re-writing the Mass Casualty Plan.

4.6 By-Laws

They were accepted at last meeting however we cannot vote because we do not have a quorum.

4.7 Aero medical

Do we need this committee? Will bring this to November Meeting.

4.8 Awards

President Scaccia would like to hold a meeting by the end of the calendar year.

4.9 Public Safety Training Facility

Please defer to Commissioners report.

4.10 CQI

Meeting was cancelled.

4.11 EMS Advocacy Committee

Since John Pierce has left the area, Fred Wurster has taken over as co-chair. Please contact Fred with interests.

V. Old Business

5.1 Trauma Center Update

Representatives from Paoli Hospital reported they received the 3 year accreditation. Congratulations.

VI. New Business

6.1 Nominations

EMT at large is up for 2012. The CC Association of Township Officials do not wish to send a representative. The Consumer Representative will stay the same along with CC Police Chief.

VII. Good of the Order

There is more talk about the tactical EMS class. There has been a conference call and a face to face meeting so far....The goal for this course is the first of the year. More to follow...

VIII. Adjournment

There being no additional formal business for the committee, a motion was made for adjournment. The motion was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm.