

East Lampeter Township Emergency Services Committee – Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2025

1. **Call to Order** – The ELT Emergency Services Committee meeting was called to order by Mike Thorton at 1900 hrs at the ELT Office and via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The following Committee Members were in attendance:

East Lampeter Township: Mike Thorton (Chair), Dana Ormerod (Citizen), Stephanie Johnson (Citizen)
Hand-in-Hand Fire Company: Paul Fisher,
Lafayette Fire Company: Jason Beiler, Robert Patterson (Citizen)
Ronks Fire Company: Dave Gribble*
Witmer Fire Company: Mike Creamer, Chad Englerth (Citizen)

The following Alternate / Non-Voting Committee Members were in attendance:

East Lampeter Township:
Hand-in-Hand Fire Company:
Lafayette Fire Company: Scott Hershey
Ronks Fire Company: Nate Church
Witmer Fire Company:

Additional Attendees:

Ralph Hutchison, ELT Manager
Tara Hitchens, ELT Assistant Manager
Leigh Obetz, Administrative Assistant
Bradley Bell, Lafayette Fire Company
Steve Petersheim
Steve Gribble, Ronks
Jeff Hatfield, EMC*
Suzi Sutton, Lafayette

*Joined via Zoom

2. **Approval of Minutes** – March 20, 2025 meeting

Jason Beiler made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mike Creamer.

3. **Old Business**

Sub Committee Reports

- a. Fire Apparatus Replacement

- Hand-in-Hand – Engine 41-1 (2026) – Paul Fisher reported there are no updates
- Lafayette – Ladder Truck 63 (2027) – Jason Beiler reported there are no updates due to long lead times

- b. Public Information

- Meeting was held on 5/14. Developed plan to begin work on next newsletter.

c. Finance

- Committee has not been meeting

d. Human Resources

- Nothing to report

Calendar Activities

- Nothing to report

4. **New Business**

Committee Poll

a. Township & Fire Companies

- ELT – Tara Hitchens reported the following:
 - Reminder to update driver's list when there is a change
 - Continue to submit spill control reports
 - Pequea #6 bridge over South Ronks Road will be closed in July for 30-45 days
 - Conestoga #7 bridge over Eden Road will be closed in July for 30-45 days
 - Western Gateway project; Strasburg Pike to Harvest Drive is under design, bidding date has been pushed back to December 2026
 - Intersection at 896/30 has new crosswalks and signals, still resurfacing from 896 to ELT line
 - No date for culvert replacement over the tributary to the Pequea on Route 30
- Witmer – Mike Creamer reported the following:
 - Child Protect – June 10
 - Successful Blood Drive on May 14
 - PR committee met with Lisa /ELT Parks & Rec, Lafayette and High Industries, working towards a joint winter celebration
 - Ox Roast April 26, sold 2700 meals. Next Ox Roast October 18
- Lafayette – Jason Beiler reported the following:
 - Spring Chicken BBQ was held in April; \$10K profit
 - Board approved a contract for driveway sealing; \$21K. Work will start within a month
 - Annual spring fund drive is in the mail
 - Down one live in from Thaddeus Stevens due to graduation

- State Police presence on May 28 at Lafayette; Annual Troop J drill
 - Assisting High Corp. with Summer Concert Series
 - Steak Cookoff – June 7
 - Cadet Camp – August 1 & 2
 - Ronks – Dave Gribble reported the following:
 - 14 new members complete pass through vehicle rescue awareness class
 - Upgrading Dewalt power tools on Rescue
 - Continue to gain new members; averaging 1 new member a month
 - Hand-in-Hand – Paul Fisher reported the following:
 - Town Cleanup – May 17
 - Spring BBQ – May 24
 - Planning for summer auction (June) and fall marathon (September)
 - 5-6 guys complete essentials course; 180 hour course
 - Squad 2 replacement process; replace with fire police vehicle, Squad 1 is 20 years old
- b. EMC – Jeff Hatfield reported the following:
- CV mapping of school, completing aerial and floorpan (CRG), will be distributed to ESC
 - Heading into hurricane season
- c. Citizen Reps
- Robert Patterson asked if there was any follow up to questions from May's meeting regarding plans for an increase in housing/population in the township (e.g. Greenfield North)
 - Discussion around emergency services and how they are affected when additional residential developments are completed within the township
 - Fire companies are invited to tour buildings. Fire companies also review plans during the development process
 - Township will be conducting a comprehensive plan. Consultant will join a future ESC meeting
 - Robert Patterson raised a question regarding the amount of false alarms being reported on 2024 Financial Statement; 3 were billed @ \$50 each
 - Discussion around automatic false alarms and if violations of Ordinance 90-5 are being assessed and/or followed up on by the township
 - Concerns were shared about habitual offenders (e.g. mostly hotels) and the tolerance level at the township level being too high
 - Fire company does not bill for false alarms or routine calls unless there is a significant financial loss. Ordinance is relied on to address false alarms
 - Fire company submits a false alarm report to the township. Township is responsible for addressing the situation
 - When ordinance violation fines are not paid they are sent to collections

- A request was made that the township provide reporting on false alarms and ordinance violations at July meeting

5. **Public Comments**

- Bradley Bell asked what the township's procedure/policy for following up on auto alarm issues reported by a fire company
- Tara Hitchens answered that reported issues will show on false alarm reports. Tara shared examples of incidents and locations she visited and steps that were taken to address issues
- New call cards will be issued. AJ will be new call person and Director of Planning will be added as well
- Scott Hershey inquired about when Lafayette will receive the additional \$10K towards the maintenance of ladder truck. Ralph Hutchison answered that this is part of the township's financial plan and will require follow up

6. **Additional Comments**

- Financial Statement comments:
 - Tara Hitchens noted a correction to the financial statement. The balances should read "December 31, 2024"
 - Paul Fisher asked about Lafayette's community donation revenue. Jason Beiler answered that fund drive generated about 25%, High donated about 50%; \$100K, the balance is misc. donations

7. **Adjournment** – Paul Fisher made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jason Beiler. Meeting adjourned @ 1947 hours.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chad Englerth, Secretary