

MINUTES

January 27, 2022

Hybrid Emergency Meeting of the Board of Supervisors (Zoom meeting ID was advertised in advance in the Pike County Dispatch)

560 Route 6 & 209

7:30 p.m.

This emergency meeting of Milford Township Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Chairperson Penney Luhrs. Also present were Supervisors Rachel Hendricks (Vice-Chairperson), Gary M. Williams, Solicitor Anthony Magnotta, Robert Di Lorenzo (Chairperson of Planning Board and Emergency Management Coordinator), Kevin Stroyan (Vice-Chairperson of Planning Board), and Secretary/Treasurer Shahana Shamim.

Penney said that the UGI representative was present to address the interruption of the gas service, and to talk about when residents would be able to get their service back.

The UGI representative, Ed Robinson, explained that the previous evening they had started receiving fluctuation alerts at their regulator station of Route 6 & 209. This station regulates the gas in the pipeline, and that pressure had gone down to zero. The station was recovered quickly, but they lose customers whenever that pressure goes down to zero. The the pilot goes out if the pressure goes down to zero so all meters were shut off by necessity. 90 field employees had come from all parts of the State that day to Milford area to assist them in reestablishing the service in the community, and there were about 20 supervisory and management personnel. At this time all of the meters had been shut off so the process of restarting service was beginning. Warming stations were being set up around the community, the gas was being moved into the system, and the gas had already started flowing into the main distribution line. The pressure was building up, as the gas was being brought through the line, but the gas was stopping at the meters, as those were still off. The readings and odor had become correct, and once all protocols were met, they would start going from door to door to start the customers' appliances, and it would continue throughout the night and day until everybody's appliances are restored. Customers could help them by being present at their properties to provide access to the field employees, and that way the process would go faster. They have a locksmith, and if nobody is present at the property, then forced entries would have be done with the help of the Fire Department or police.

Penney inquired if they had any plans about from where they wanted to start. The representative said that they had all the addresses from their service list in alphabetical order, and they also had a list of all the calls that the customer care representative had received. They were starting with Matamoras, and they were focusing on restoring the schools and public buildings. Rachel said that the Township building didn't need to be prioritized, as it won't be occupied

overnight, but some elderly residents don't have back up heating sources, and the Fire House also on the other hand needed to be prioritized. Mr. Williams said that he had posted his and two other employees' phone numbers on the door so that they could be contacted whenever the personnel were there to restore. Rachel inquired what the advice for the residents would be if they are unable to stay in their cold houses. The representative asked to post on the website that the personnel would go from door to door overnight, the customers should check the UGI website and if they were leaving their homes to provide contact information.

Mr. Tim Knapp, the County Emergency Management Coordinator, said that there was misinformation that the restoration had started at 6:30 in the morning, but that was not correct. The representative replied that they had started pulling gas into the main in the morning, that's what that meant, and they would start going from door to door as soon as the gas level reaches 100%. Mr. Knapp added that they had started setting up shelters since 2:30 A.M., and nobody had utilized at those shelters. He further added that more frequent messaging and updates were important, as it would make the job easier for everybody. The UGI representative added that the field employees were coming from across the state, and it was difficult to provide a time frame about when those crews would be here. Rachel added that the Township would be able to post sections, neighborhoods, or streets to where UGI is approaching to make it expeditious for UGI. She asked Tim to coordinate their critical infrastructure with the UGI team. Mr. Knapp said he would, and he added that that infrastructure was in the hands of the operations team already. Mr. Williams said that a businessperson, who had his main office in New Jersey, was selling electric heaters at the parking lot of Wal-Mart.

Jeff Christensen and Eric Passaro from the Fire Department were present at the meeting. Mr. Passaro said that they had responded to a call at 2:30 A.M. that morning, and since then it had been pretty much the same. He continued that people had been calling since then, and they had been informing the callers about what actually had happened. They had also informed the callers about hazards of using space heaters, extension cords, power strips, and overloading the outlets. They had also been advising to spread to different outlets, and to pull those away from the walls and furniture to lower ignition risks, and they had encouraged everybody not to use electric stoves and ovens, as COs are the byproducts of those devices. In reply to his inquiry the UGI representative said that if a forced entry results in damage, then that would be fixed quickly through insurance claims. Gary asked Com. Osterberg if he could contact the Sheriff to send some deputies here to assist, and Com. Osterberg said that he would put that request to the Sheriff. He added that there's always two on duty anyway, and he would link them whenever UGI needed them.

Rachel Hendricks read that whereas the gas outage has resulted in numerous homes and businesses without heat, whereas temperatures were below freezing, and resulting in a risk to lives and properties, therefore be it resolved that Milford Township Board of Supervisors declares a state of emergency in order to obtain all possible assistances from Federal, State, and Local Authorities for emergency services to the Municipality, residents, and businesses and to

restore services safely and efficiently. Mr. Gary M. Williams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Di Lorenzo added that there would be odors when people buy electric heaters and use it for the first time.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shahana Shamim