



**T H O R N B U R Y T O W N S H I P**  
**D E L A W A R E C O U N T Y**

W W W . T H O R N B U R Y . O R G

**BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS:**

James H. Raith  
James P. Kelly  
Sheri Perkins  
*Public Meetings*  
*1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month*

**MINUTES**

**Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors Special Public Forum  
Tuesday, August 1, 2017**

**PRESENT:**

James H. Raith, Chairman  
James P. Kelly, Vice Chairman  
Sheri L. Perkins, Supervisor  
Jeffrey Seagraves, Township Manager  
Geoffrey Carbutt, Township Secretary  
Lindsey Price, Roadmaster  
Rob Hazlet (Assistant Chief) Chester Heights Fire Company  
Lee Weersing (President) and Bob Vasek (Asst. Chief) Concordville Fire Company  
Chip Miller (President) Edgmont Fire Company  
Larry Bak (Deputy Director) Delaware County Emergency Management  
Lt. James J. Hennigan Pennsylvania State Police  
Alan Mancill (Fire Marshall) Thornbury Township  
Willard McMullin (Emergency Management Coordinator) Thornbury Township  
Joe McGinn (Public Affairs) & Charlie Stewart (Director / Pipeline Operations) Sunoco Pipeline

**Attendees: 75**

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors held a Special Public Forum on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, at the Glen Mills Schools, located at 185 Glen Mills Road, Glen Mills PA. Chairman Raith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag. He then mentioned the purpose of the meeting, explaining that it was an informational meeting regarding Pipeline Awareness and Emergency Preparedness. He added, this will not be the only meeting we will be having. He then introduced the panel, and asked that their comments be as brief as possible, to allow questions from our Thornbury Township residents.

- James H. Raith (Chairman) Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors
- James P. Kelly (Vice Chairman) Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors
- Sheri Perkins (Member) Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors
- Jeff Seagraves (Manager) Thornbury Township
- Rob Hazlet (Assistant Chief) Chester Heights Fire Company
- Lee Weersing (President) and Bob Vasek (Asst. Chief) Concordville Fire Company
- Chip Miller (President) Edgmont Fire Company
- Larry Bak (Deputy Director) Delaware County Emergency Management
- Lt. James J. Hennigan Pennsylvania State Police
- Alan Mancill (Fire Marshall) Thornbury Township
- Willard McMullin (Emergency Management Coordinator) Thornbury Township
- Joe McGinn (Public Affairs), Charlie Stewart (Director of Pipeline Operations) and Matt Gordon (Managing Director) from Sunoco.

Chairman Raith introduced Jeff Seagraves, Thornbury Township Manager. Jeff commented that his experience with Emergency Management began right here at the school, when he was Facilities Manager, and he detailed several instances. He then mentioned the more recent events such as winter blizzards, hurricanes and the most recent storm in 2015 which left over 200,000 Delaware Valley residents without power, and commented on the Emergency Evacuation Plan during those emergencies. He also mentioned the communications in place for the entire area, and that our Emergency Management Team meets regularly. He also detailed the procedures with minor emergencies as well. Jeff mentioned our local emergency communications, our web site and email list, and he encouraged everyone to sign up at [www.thornbury.org](http://www.thornbury.org). He mentioned open communications with the pipelines and the County Emergency Services, and that we have provided info on emergency preparedness. He detailed the 4 pipelines and their locations throughout the Township, and mentioned more informational materials will be forthcoming.

Chairman Raith then introduced Rob Hazlett, from Chester Heights Fire Company. Rob mentioned Larry Ward is also with us tonight, and then mentioned they are an all-volunteer company consisting of 20 active members at this time, and most of our members are nationally certified. All our members are trained in ICS management and NIMS which are Incident command systems. He explained EMS operational level members and technician level members. We are constantly assessing all hazards needs. We have been through pipeline training, and continue to train on a routine basis and added, we are very well trained, very well equipped and ready to respond.

Chairman Raith then introduced Lee Weersing, from Concordville Fire Company. Lee thanked everyone and mentioned that Rob just said it all, and reiterated his overview. Lee then explained his members capabilities, and that some of them are career firefighters. He then detailed how they are well equipped for pipeline disasters and their evacuations.

Chairman Raith then introduced Chip Miller, from Edgmont Fire Company. Chip mentioned their members and their procedures are the same as well, with 25 active members trained at the same levels. Chip added life safety is our biggest priority, as in moving people to a safe zone. Our biggest challenge is constant re-training and we are always looking for new members.

Chairman Raith then introduced Larry Bak, from Delco Emergency Services. Larry Bak mentioned he joined the fire company 36 years ago. County level, emergency management hazardous materials response, as Jeff said, we are putting together a guidance, being faced with pipeline situations, so we are all working from the same script. For all of the commercial pipelines in Delaware County, the largest is Philadelphia Electric, which has twenty-five hundred miles of gas pipeline in Delaware County. It is important to keep things in perspective. Everyone is afraid of this one pipeline, and if you look at all the events over the past couple of years, they all involve residential gas service. As much as we want to say we must prepare for this particular pipeline, folks need to be aware of all pipelines. They need to be aware of all hazards, and we need an all hazards approach to preparation and planning. We work in a cycle of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation, and we are in a preparedness mode right now. Delco responds like nobody else can and they do a great job, and our local municipalities and elected officials are also at work in that mode. We want to make sure you are ready and we need your help. Everyone should have an emergency prep checklist and guide, and they are available in the back. The County's role is to support the municipalities in their response, to get the resources they need, to communicate and coordinate, and that is what we do, while watching out for the residents. Lastly, Larry added,

that pipelines are statistically the safest means of transporting gas. If it wasn't in a pipeline, it would be in a truck, on a train car, or a barge, and none of those are as safe as a pipeline.

Chairman Raith then introduced Lieutenant Jim Hennigan of the Pennsylvania State Police. Lieutenant Hennigan mentioned that he is the Station Commander at the Media Station. He then detailed their role and relationship with Delco Emergency Management and all of the response teams. He said we are prepared to provide outstanding service in the case of any type of emergency, and are also trained under the ICS and NIMS, cross train with all other entities and response teams, and operate under the same system of communication with them. The PA State Police has a Hazardous Device and Explosive section. We also have a Clandestine Lab Response Team whose objective is to respond to situations like meth labs and all types of substances. The Lieutenant reiterated, we are prepared to assist in any way.

Chairman Raith then introduced Joe McGinn, Charlie Stewart and Matt Gordon of Sunoco. Joe McGinn stated Charlie's background is Leading Operations and Incident Command Team, and Matt is Project Director. Charlie then asked everyone to please keep their comments and questions brief, and limited to the theme of the meeting, Emergency Response, and what our capabilities are. He then gave a history of the company in the area about spoke about the planning stage, and their involvement with the LAPC for as long as it has existed, and the county and several municipalities participated in the planning issues. Joe mentioned Bill Kelly their Fire Chief, and staff associated with Emergency Management based in Marcus Hook, and their interaction with all of the municipalities, sharing information, taking this responsibility seriously. Joe then continued to speak on the planning stages of the pipeline in the Glen Mills area and noted that product has moved safely through the township for decades. Joe then detailed their training and plan on holding drills this month, and we work closely with the Southeast Regional Task Force. We also have class room training as well, and our Outreach Program will be training more than 1300 First Responders, and our training is ongoing. Joe then introduced Charlie Stewart.

Charlie Stewart, Senior Director for the Sunoco Pipeline Eastern Area Operations mentioned all of the staff they have in the East, maintaining the pipeline on a 24 hour basis. He mentioned the eastern area control center in Sinking Spring that monitors pressures and flows, 24-7. He then detailed the products and the lines that range in various sizes. They carry product as far as Detroit, Buffalo and Rochester. Lastly, Charlie stated that we are also trained under the ICS and NIMS and know how to operate under unified command. He then passed the floor to Matt.

Matthew Gordon, Project Director for the Pipeline Project, mentioned the pipeline parallels the turnpike and branches off similar to on or off ramps to different locations, with a final destination of Marcus Hook. Their entire Pipeline runs from Ohio through Pennsylvania. Matt mentioned the different types of the work being done, trenching, auger boring or horizontal directional drilling. He then described the processes and the use of Bentonite clay, which is the same for residential wells, that is approved by the DEP and is used for cooling the bit. As the bit come out, it flushes it out, and it takes multiple passes to achieve the end result. This is the process being used in Thornbury, west of 926, on 352, behind Duffers, crossing a total of six properties in the township, in an easement that has been there since the 1930's.

Chairman Raith then thanked the panel and opened the floor for questions from Thornbury Township residents. He then introduced Maxine Manges from Creek Road.

Maxine Manges began by stating how freaked out she is over this pipeline, facing the idea that they could be incinerated, and it could be the end of our lives, and everyone within 6 miles of a

blast. This is a gas that can sink and asphyxiate you. You can't drive your car. You would have to run as fast as you can to escape. She then mentioned her respect of first responders but wanted to speak about property values and asked the Sunoco representative where they lived, because she has lived here for 45 years. She then mentioned this meeting is about possible death and destruction and it sounds as if were talking about a war zone. The type of product being transported is not benefitting Thornbury residents and is intended for export to make plastic. Yet you are using our properties to your benefit, and we are subject to hazmat and ruminative scenarios. She then asked about property values, where do you live and can we stop this from happening?

Matt replied in terms of property values info, you have to understand there are existing lines here. There is a lot of info out there designed to scare folks. The lines along Cheyney Road have been carrying propane and butane safely for decades. I was born and raised in Delaware County near a refinery. Ethane, propane and butane are the primary products and you're right about plastics. We are presently developing facilities near the waterfront. Ethane powers gas turban engines in power plants. There is one being being built in Johnstown right now. Propane is used for home heat and is now used for school busses. Butane is actually blended back into gasoline and these get used by everybody. Lastly Matt mentioned that we all use plastics in our everyday lives.

Jennifer Berlinger who lives at 352 and 926, spoke about listening to a drilling machine, and hasn't heard anyone explain how we are going to know if there is a leak. She said she grew up near Limerick where there were sirens so you had time to get away. With this, you can't hear it or smell it or see it. There is no warning. How are you going to tell us? How are we going to know? I can't get in my car to go and since you can't drive in, how could you come and get us? What type of system will notify us?

Chairman Raith agreed to look into a siren and also wind socks so we can know which way the wind is blowing. Our goal is at our next meeting working on evacuation plans and also to schedule other meetings as needed. Jim thanked Jennifer for bringing this up and we will be addressing this very soon. Jennifer reiterated their needs and to also to be able to warn the traffic. Jim understood and mentioned reaching out to local businesses as well.

Joanne Williams from Middletown to get into my development I have to cross over Ridley Creek Drive. Two years ago, Sunoco was fined \$95,000.00 for having ruined springs wells, and they have ruin springs and wells all across Pennsylvania. Last week, I was poisoned by Aqua water when I made a cup of tea. My water is being tested right now and I am on bottled water. You have ruined our water and how are you going to fix that?

Matt mentioned this was a West Whiteland issue and they check their public water source every ten minutes. They have never been affected ever. Joe McGinn spoke about bentonite in the creek water which we cleaned up immediately and no fish were harmed and there has been no contamination of public water.

Larry Barrett of Skyline Drive mentioned he is a life member of Edgmont Fire Company. He asked about line pressure, and stated there is no data on how much pressure is in the line and what type of fluid is in there. He has heard that it is poisonous and has heard he shouldn't drive and I will have to hobble away. I have good reputation for running early and one morning I slept through a pipeline incident flowing into Chester Creek, which is a source of drinking water. I also heard there was one on Valley Road and would like the statistics on that. You should have the data on the problem of them happening, which I believe is fairly high, once it fails to shut off valves. It seems there is a lot of data missing.

Matt responded by detailing what is carried in the lines, what the typical pressures are, where the valves are located, how they are shut off in case of an emergency and the reasons why they would be shut down.

Charlie said we are in the process of finding early warning solutions. It sounds like we were washing our hands of this evacuation issue, but we are working towards that with community support for an early warning system. He said a gentleman mentioned 38 years of monitoring described the incident to which Larry referred and detailed the other recent accidents.

Pete Haws of Station Road mentioned he is concerned about drilling and aquifers. He asked about horizontal drilling and how do you know the damage you may be doing to aquifers miles away? Is there any study on aquifers where the drilling will take place? He then asked how much product is in between valves and how much will leak or be released in that distance? He stated he is concerned about the aquifers, and his neighbors who aren't on public water. He also mentioned those who opt to be hooked up to public water don't know how much water will cost 20 years from now.

Joe explained how they responded to West Whiteland and we look at before and after aquifer data. We tested 36 wells and they exceed health standards for public water and when you talk to residents, we engaged them immediately. He turned the floor to Matt to explain drilling.

Matt mentioned the procedure for DEP applications to and the testing involved. We also offered well and public water testing to all that are in 150 feet of the drilling. We also had third party geologists perform geotechnical surveys at all sites to review the stability of the bedrock. He then detailed how they handled the leak so the wells recharged. He also explained how they responded to the impact.

Pete Haws then questioned the 150 foot distance for testing because he had an experience with a nearby geo thermal well disturbing his well water for 2 years, and felt it should be a greater distance for testing.

Matt then explained that they would still address wells outside that area and the 150 foot distance is for pretesting limits.

Chairman Raith, at that point, stated that any Thornbury Township resident that wanted their well tested, would only have to contact him at [jim@thornbury.org](mailto:jim@thornbury.org) and we, or Sunoco, would pay for the testing.

Mitch Trembicki of Middletown Road said he will take Chairman Raith up on that offer because he lives 200 feet away from that line. He then gave his address as 187 Middletown Road, and thanked The Board for having this meeting and also thanked all of the first responders in attendance. He then repeated the line spoken earlier that a pipeline is safer than train or truck is not for us. It should stay in the ground, not in a pipeline. He then asked if Sun will remediate the wells in West Whiteland. Matt mentioned the wells have recharged and it is up to the landowners to abandon their well or not. Mr. Trembicki then contended that the wells were contaminated and Matt Gordon replied that the wells were not contaminated and have recharged. Mr. Trembicki then questioned the time it takes for an aquifer to recharge. Matt tried to reply that we had geologists on site and the aquifers did recharge only to be interrupted by Mr. Trembicki accusing them of taking short-cuts, damaging the aquifer, not caring about us and inferred that Matt didn't even know how an aquifer works. Mr. Trembicki then questioned the size of the 30 inch bore holes for a 20 inch pipe, to which Matt Gordon asked Mr. Trembicki if he was going to talk over him or let him answer the question. Matt then responded yes to his question. Mr. Trembicki asked what will be done with the void between the pipe and the drill hole. Matt replied Bentonite and grout. Mr. Trembicki asked if it would be for the entire distance. Matt tried to describe the situation in West Whiteland but was interrupted again by Mr. Trembicki, who contended that Matt stated that Bentonite was a non-toxic material, and

asked him for a definition of non-toxic. While Matt was answering, Mr. Trembicki proceeded to produce a bag of supposed Bentonite, suggesting that Matt consume it, disrupting the meeting. Ken Hagman then asked that the Board dismiss Mr. Trembicki because he was causing confrontation and asked if he could have a chance to speak. Chairman Raith then suggested that we move on and let others speak. Maxine Manges asked exactly what Bentonite is, to which Mr. Trembicki replied, it is clay, but I am asking him to drink it. Chairman Raith then gavelled the disruption. Mr. Trembicki explained he was trying to make a point and then went on to explain his interpretation of aquifer recharging, and contended that they are required to grout the entire length of the pipe to prevent surface pathogens from entering.

Matt Gordon explained there was no Bentonite found in West Whiteland, and it was the DEP that determined Bentonite is non-toxic.

Ken Hagman of Old Barn Drive mentioned it seems everyone but me is against this. He asked, why is America against progress? Then, in an effort to make a statement, he was shouted down by the crowd. After the Chairman gavelled the disruption, Mr. Hagman stated there was a leak in the Delaware River many years ago, and all of the environmentalists were there, and called to get rid of all of the ships that go up the river. What you people are trying to do is stop progress. He stated there is no such thing as perfectly clean.

Jim Kostyk of Hampton Lane in Edgmont asked Matt Gordon what pressure is the horizontal drilling at. Matt Gordon answered between 100 -200 psi. Mr. Kostyk then asked about the pipes on slitting mill road, and asked if there was one or two lines there. Matt answered there are two. Mr. Kostyk questioned their drawings, and asked if anyone in your company has taken fire training for petroleum products, to which Matt replied yes.

Lew Manges of Creek Road asked, what is the most vulnerable thing in this, what are Sunoco's biggest concerns, what should we be concerned about, and what keeps you up at night? Joe turned that question over to Charlie who stated Third Party involvement for sewer lines or water lines performing work on the surface, is what he worries about. People digging near a pipeline, which is my biggest concern. On one occasion we found where they were one bucket away from hitting a line. A lot of people don't even submit PA One calls and we don't even know they are there. Through public awareness we try to educate. They should all be subject to the same integrity management as everyone. That's what make the pipeline industry safe.

Eric Friedman of Fallbrook Lane asked if they are guaranteeing this pipeline will never leak. Matt Gordon answered that there are no guarantees but they are 99.99% safe. Mr. Friedman then thanked all of the first responders for being here tonight. He then asked if there were any representative from Tiger Swan here tonight. Matt replied no. Mr. Friedman then asked who Ivana Wolf works for, is she authorized to speak, who is her employer and who does she speak for. Matt replied she is a contractor with Bravo who works for us. He asked if anyone considers this a pre-construction meeting. Matt answered No, this meeting is supposed to be about Emergency Response and answering those questions. Chairman Raith reiterated Matt's statement. Mr. Friedman then asked if the leak in Edgmont was discovered by Sunoco or the landowner. Charlie answered, the landowner. Mr. Friedman then asked about MTBE's being found in the ground water. Charlie had no knowledge of that and Matt said no. Mr. Friedman stated that he has information that differs and asked if Sunoco disclaimed responsibility for the MTBE's found in the well. Matt did not have any info on that. Matt then informed Mr. Friedman that due to the fact that Mr. Friedman is involved in several law suits, a lot of the questions he is asking cannot be answered because of that. Mr. Friedman then said he understood because he is defending his property. Mr. Friedman went on to report statistics on pipeline leaks.

Mr. Friedman then asked what a large release of this product would look like in Thornbury Township. Matt then attempted offer an answer with statistics to which he was interrupted by Mr. Friedman. Matt then stated there are many different factors that vary, that would determine the effect. Charlie reiterated and tried to give an example. Mr. Friedman then went on to detail their history of 290 leaks. Charlie gave account of the difference between rupture accidents and natural disasters. Matt then tried to explain that there is really no way to determine a worst case scenario. Mr. Friedman than reported more statistics on accidents and ask specific technical questions that the Sunoco team did not have answers to. Chairman Raith asked Matt to be followed up with him regarding these questions. Mr. Friedman and Matt disagreed on what Mr. Friedman ascertained. Mr. Friedman asked about the Morgantown incident to which Matt responded by citing statistics and again, they disagreed on the facts.

Mr. Friedman then asked about ME1 in West Goshen and West Whiteland and if there is maintenance work being done. Charlie answered he was unaware that the line was down and needed maintenance. Again, they disagreed on the facts. Lastly, Mr. Friedman questioned the posted address of the Middletown Road valve site, and he also expressed concern on the warnings posted there.

Chairman Raith commented that anyone who doesn't get a chance to ask their questions will get an opportunity after the meeting.

Nancy Bennett of Grist Mill Road first thanked the first responders and thanked the Board for having this meeting. She had a question about Unified Command. Larry Bak explained the first guy in, has the say on how to proceed. I am the NMS Police, making sure there is someone from the township, and the county at the site. Charlie reiterated Larry's comments and added directives have to be agreed upon and sometimes involves the federal and state as well. Mrs. Bennett also asked about their training to which Larry replied we run exercises throughout the year.

Peter Alois of Chery Creek asked how many safety valve are planned for Delaware County. Matt answered one in Thornbury, one in Middletown and one in Upper Chichester. Three total per line. Mr. Alois then asked what the length is. Matt replied 17 miles. Mr. Alois then asked about the length of time it takes for a shut-down. Matt said the entire Pipeline lines can be automatically closed in 30- 90 seconds. The size of the leak would determine how much of the line would be shut down. It can be done manually as well. Mr. Alois then asked what the word Cocktail refers to. Joe answered the gas is a mix of products like Ethanol and Butane. The ME1 primary use is for Ethane and Propane that all moves in the same line. For ME2, the primary use is for Propane and Butane. Mr. Alois then asked about the explosive force of these. Joe mentioned communication between us and the county, identifies the product. Joe tried to explain the difference between liquid and gas by using propane bottles as an example. Mr. Alois described a worst case scenario and asked how the first responders would deal with that. Joe replied that it would be left to burn out and said the only way that would happen would be the example of third party contractors striking a line. Unassured, Mr. Alois thanked everyone.

Phillip Block a Councilman for Chester Heights and also a chemical Engineer, questioned why the representatives from Sunoco couldn't answer the question asked about the explosive force Sunoco should know. He asked about Emergency Preparedness and what is the worst case scenario? How many first responders will we lose? What is the County's view on the worst case scenario? Joe answered that would differ under different conditions. Mr. Block contended that means you have not developed an Emergency Plan, and you need to determine what that impact will be before moving forward, and he demanded that from the County. Larry answered

your local Emergency Management Coordinator would determine that. We don't have local responsibility, it is on a local level, with local officials. Mr. Block then asked, So you have turned that over to the local Emergency Management Coordinator? Mr. Block also stated, I think on a County level this should be looked at, and he kept pushing for a worst case scenario description, which was determined to be undefinable.

Chairman Raith tried to wrap up by citing education is key to our success, to which Mr. Block interrupted and posed the question to Chairman Raith, Where will you get your worst case scenario information? Chairman Raith answered we will do our homework. He then allowed one more person to comment.

Mary Beth Cassidy of Greenbriar stated if this gas is odorless and colorless we can't detect it. Why can't there be an odor added to this so we can be aware of a leak. Joe said it can be heard or seen on the ground, but currently we do not have the technology to do that effectively. Joe explained to Ms. Cassidy, we want to be pro-active and come up with a solution rather than just listening. Ms. Cassidy then added she doesn't want to have to walk around constantly listening for things, and feels that a siren or a wind sock just isn't good enough.

Chairman Raith wrapped up by stating we will be having other meetings in the future and reiterated that well water testing will be offered by contacting the Township or contacting me at [jim@thornbury.org](mailto:jim@thornbury.org). There is also a lot of information available on our website at [www.thornbury.org](http://www.thornbury.org). Chairman Raith then thanked everyone for their participation, Glen Mills Schools for hosting us, our emergency responders and our full Panel.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm  
Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Carbutt, Township Secretary

cc: Board of Supervisors  
James Byrne, Esq.  
Jeffrey Seagraves, Township Manager