

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 4, 2021

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, October 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Brown and Commissioners Black, Cromer, Elksnis, and Heiland. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Brown announced there was an executive session held following the September 20, 2021, Board of Commissioners Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the September 7, 2021, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

CO-RESPONDER INFORMATION: Police Chief Hettinger introduced Sharon Harlacher, York County Administrator for Early Intervention, Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities, to give a brief presentation regarding the Co-Responder program. Ms. Harlacher reported the intent of the program is to have a mental health professional embedded in with law enforcement to accompany along with calls, availability in the office for advisement, and/or follow-up with the necessary mental health resources. The co-responder professional would be shared between Penn Township, Hanover Borough, and West Manheim Township. Penn Township has the available office space that is required, phone, office supplies, payroll and insurance will be provided through the program and is of no cost to the municipalities and will be funded through York/Adams Crisis Intervention. The law enforcement departments will decide how to utilize the professional. They would start with one shift and analyze the volume of calls and then adjust the hours accordingly. The Police Officer will be the first point of contact and then if needed will team with the mental health provider to ensure the best course of action. The Committee thanked Ms. Harlacher and made a favorable recommendation for the program.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S) TO CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS: Police Chief Hettinger reported that the Civil Service Commission is requesting a few revisions to The Rules and Regulations for the Police Department. In Section P-401A, item 5, a reading test is required to enter the police academy, therefore requesting to ease the requirement to be "if necessary". Item 7, they are requesting to include the wording "or other truth verification test", reason being, if an applicant has taken a truth verification test through another municipality in the application process, and in turn is not chosen, Penn Township would like to utilize that test result to fulfil the requirement. They are also requesting an addition of item 8, Any other required test/check, this stems as a result of Act 57, which requires a check of prior employment with other Police

Departments. Under Section P-408, changing the time period from 6 months to 24 months for receiving a conditional offer of employment of an applicant's successful graduation from a recognized Pennsylvania police academy class. Commissioner Heiland suggested adding a time restraint for the reading test for Section P-401A, item 5. The committee recommended approving the revisions.

DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY: Police Chief Hettinger reported the department has a drug take back day scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2021, the event will take place at the Clover Lane Fire Station. Commissioner Heiland asked if this event will cause overtime pay, and Chief Hettinger stated that the event would not.

POLICE 2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION: Police Chief Hettinger presented an overview of the 2022 police budget. The total expenses for Police Protection are \$4,796,300. There are contractual increases in salaries, Chief Hettinger included salaries for the addition of two probationary police officers increasing the platoon to a total twenty-five, and the increase of hours for the vehicle maintenance position. There are increases in healthcare and insurances, which do not reflect the proposed two additional officers. The cost of ammunition has risen and difficult to find, the addition of a monthly subscription from a law enforcement consultant for most recent updates, plus a subscription for Crimewatch, a platform protection for social media accounts. The department needs to replace five shotguns, flashlights and the cost of installation and maintenance of intersection camera systems at York and Center Street. The addition of two traffic solutions electronic speed signs, and two standing desks. Also included is the replacement of two police cruisers plus all the equipment, as well as the replacement of the Detective vehicle. Chief Hettinger stated that the portable radios will cease to be supported in November of 2026, and he would like to begin replacing five a year, there are twenty-five portable radios in total.

FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION: Fire Chief Clouser presented an overview of the 2022 fire budget which includes Hanover Area Fire and Rescue Commission budget. The total expenses are \$3,337,023, which include contractual salary increases, and health insurance. Hydrant repair and rental has increased due to the housing growth in the Township. Installation of sidewalk will be needed along the fire station on Clover Lane. The Fire Commission budget contribution is \$750,388. This includes the cost of a Business Manager in lieu of a Deputy Fire Chief. Radio replacement is needed; however, the Fireman's Relief Association has offered to take care of this expense over the next few years. Chief Clouser stated that there is approximately \$376,000 outstanding in EMS reimbursements for this year.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported the last Fire Commission meeting was cancelled. An additional meeting was scheduled due to an intergovernmental agreement the commission needed to act on budget items prior to September 30, and during that meeting the commission approved the budget for presentation to each municipality. Commissioner Brown reported the Business Manager position will be a Commission position. The treasurer duties will be turned over to the finance committee.

EMA UPDATE: EMA Coordinator Waltman reviewed his September report. Commissioner Black had questions regarding the EMA plan and it references three appendixes that are not included in the public document, he is not willing to approve a document without all of the information. Mr. Waltman stated the information is not covered under the right to know privilege, because the appendixes references names, addresses and contact information. He can forward the information to the committee for their review prior to consideration for approval.

OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Brown requested Police Chief Hettinger to contact the YMCA to remove their signs regarding the marathon that took place the previous week.

Commissioner Cromer questioned Police Chief Hettinger what the procedure was for Flagger Force for the streets. Chief Hettinger stated that the YMCA contracted with Flagger Force for traffic control on the streets during the marathon, and they do not have permission to close the streets. Commissioner Cromer stated that he went to the recycling center and they had Wilson Avenue closed for twenty minutes or longer, traffic was backed up, and vehicles were attempting to turn around. Chief Hettinger will forward the information.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary