

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 6, 2023

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, November 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Elksnis, Commissioners Berlingo, Black, Brown, and Heiland. Also present were Manager Ledley, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Elksnis announced there was an executive session held following the October 16, 2023, Penn Township Board of Commissioners Meeting to discuss personnel and consult with the solicitor on legal matters. He further announced there will be Finance Committee meetings to discuss the budget on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, and Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 6 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the October 2, 2023, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Mr. David Baker, residing at 2 Valley Run Circle, has requested the Committee to investigate the safety conditions on Baer Avenue behind Emory H. Markle Middle School. He highlighted the absence of crosswalks, particularly when exiting the middle school. Mr. Baker pointed out that there is a school zone sign about a tenth of a mile away from the entrance, heading to the rear of the school, and two signs in the opposite direction along the blind curve. His concern revolves around the fact that while the speed limit by the school on Black Rock Road, and Bowman Road is fifteen miles per hour during mornings and dismissal, the speed limit on Baer Avenue remains constant at twenty-five miles per hour. This is particularly alarming as children frequently walk and ride their bikes to and from school along Baer Avenue. Mr. Baker shared a recent incident involving his son, who was walking across the street when a vehicle ran over his foot. Chief Hettinger assured that they will thoroughly investigate the matter. However, he mentioned that implementing a fifteen-mile-an-hour speed limit on Baer Avenue would necessitate a traffic study and approval from PennDOT. It was suggested to also communicate with the Superintendent regarding the situation and report back to Chief Hettinger.

2024 KLUGH ANIMAL CONTROL AGREEMENT: Police Chief Hettinger announced the receipt of the 2024 Klugh Animal Control Agreement, noting that it maintains the same level of service as before with minor adjustments in pricing. Chief Hettinger expressed satisfaction with the quality of service in the past. The Committee has recommended approving the agreement.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CRIME BUREAU MOU: Police Chief Hettinger informed the Committee that the Memorandum of Understanding, allowing detectives to obtain information from insurance companies during investigations, was deliberated upon during the July meeting. In

response to the Committee's request, the solicitor thoroughly reviewed the document and found no issues. The Committee has recommended approving the agreement.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported at the last Fire Commission Meeting that he, along with Representative Kate Klunk and Mayor Whitman, recognized citizen William Myers with a commendation for his quick actions on September 14th. Mr. Myers pulled over on his way home from work and assisted a resident with a porch fire. Chief Clouser stated that a Human Resource Committee has been formed, with members including Chief Clouser, Amy Hill of Hanover Borough, and Tammi Ledley of Penn Township. Discussion was held regarding the temporary patch on the driveway at Clearview Station. He reported that he met with the fire union and meeting with them again to discuss what will need to be done to get to a negotiated contract. Chief Clouser further reported that he was happily informed the developer has begun excavation, and the stones have been placed for the installation of the sidewalk along the Clover Lane Station.

CIVIL SERVICE JOINT ELIGIBILITY LIST WITH HANOVER BOROUGH: Fire Chief Clouser reported that the last candidate who was offered a position had to withdraw from the academy. A conditional offer has been extended to the latest candidate on the list, and he will begin his polygraph, psychological, and physical examinations. Since this list has now expired, Chief Clouser is requesting the committee to authorize the Civil Service Commission to create a new list of candidates. He mentioned that the police department is part of a consortium, and similarly, there are area fire departments involved in a testing consortium specifically for physical agility testing. The CPAT testing was designed to enable fire departments to identify pools of trainable candidates capable of performing essential job tasks. Those who pass receive a card valid for a year. Chief Clouser is currently collaborating with the administrative assistant in Lancaster County to determine the necessary steps to join this consortium.

Committee Chair Elksnis asked Chief Clouser about the status of the in-house CDL testing. The Chief reported that Captain Boyce was able to find a program online that covers all types of vehicles. Captain Boyce will review the program and eliminate unnecessary components. He will meet with Penn Township Engineer Bortner and AJ Grimm from Hanover Borough to coordinate the process. Chief Clouser mentioned that one of our firefighters requires an extension for his CDL, and Chief Clouser will be sending an extension request letter for the firefighter to Manager Ledley.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Waltman submitted his October report. He also reported that the YMCA's annual Snacktown RunFest was successful; however, there was a traffic backup on Wilson Avenue by the school, and the route will need to be reviewed for next year. The Hanover Area Jaycees Halloween Parade proceeded with few minor incidents. Drought conditions in the area persist due to the dry weather.

OTHER MATTERS: Police Chief Hettinger reported that we have obtained quotes for replacing the carpet in both the police department and municipal office.

He further informed the Committee that the probationary candidate has successfully met all preliminary requirements.

Additionally, Chief Hettinger shared that the department is contributing all the funds raised during No Shave November to Bartz Brigade, a community-based nonprofit organization in York, PA. This organization focuses on raising funds to support the education, prevention, and awareness of suicide, with a specific emphasis on school-aged children, young adults, and veterans in need.

Fire Chief Clouser announced that Santa is scheduled to visit Penn Township on December 9th and 10th. A detailed schedule is currently in the works. There is also a possibility of utilizing an app for residents to track Santa's location during his visit.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary