

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 6, 2020

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, January 6, 2020, following the Public Works Committee Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Present were Chairman Brown and Commissioners Elksnis, Felix, and Heiland. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, MS4 Stormwater Coordinator Hirt, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the December 2, 2019 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Cindy Stanley, Hershey Heights Road, asked the committee for an update on the requested light on the corner of Hershey Heights Road and Broadway. Commissioner Felix responded that it was in the works, and will be installed in the near future.

SONNY STREET NO PARKING TRAFFIC STUDY: Police Chief Hettinger reported that a traffic study was completed on Sonny Street where the street narrows from Friar Run to Grandview Road. It is suggested to make both sides of the road no parking to allow traffic to move freely without restrictions. Commissioner Felix stated that there is no curbing on the old section, there are several choices, do nothing and have difficulty with emergency vehicles getting through, apply no parking on the street, or widen the portion of Sonny Street and install curbing, with the curbing being a cost to the property owners. Commissioner Felix suggested the best scenario would be to approve the no parking on Sonny Street as residents do have off street parking. Commissioner Felix suggested tabling the discussion until next month when there will be a full Board of Commissioners.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CROSSWALK LIGHTING: Police Chief Hettinger reported that he received a request from ESAB for crosswalk lighting on Wilson Avenue, leading to an Administrative Office and Karen Lane leading to the employee parking lot. Both streets have crosswalks with supporting traffic studies, they are both properly marked and in place. The request is for additional lighting to draw attention to the crosswalks. Police Chief Hettinger checked with his LTAP representative regarding legalities and lighting is permitted however, must receive approval from state. There would be significant cost involved in adding the lighting. Mr. Todd Wagner, Health & Safety Manager at ESAB stated that they have several near misses where employees where when crossing, drivers are speeding through the crosswalks. They have had cases of a stopped vehicle and the driver behind would pass the stopped vehicle putting the person in the crosswalk in danger. Commissioner Felix asked Mr. Wagner if ESAB would be willing to pay the cost involved, Mr. Wagner stated it would be something they

would consider. Commissioner Felix reminded the committee that even if the costs would be paid by the business, the cost of maintaining would be the responsibility of the township. Mr. Wagner added that at night time, people cannot be seen in the crosswalk. Police Chief Hettinger stated that it's his understanding the beacons would be similar to the flashing caution yellow. Mr. Wagner added that they are informing their employees that just because the crosswalk is there, they have a personal responsibility to be sure they do not assume that an oncoming car is going to stop. Commissioner Felix asked when the crosswalks are used the most. Mr. Wagner stated that the Karen Lane is used most often as they have shifts 24-7, and Wilson would mostly be used 7 a.m., to 5 p.m. Commissioner Felix suggested increasing police presence. Police Chief Hettinger stated that he has had increased patrols from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and they have reported an increase of vehicular traffic. Commissioner Heiland suggested to placing the electronic speed signs, and Police Chief Hettinger will work on posting the electronic speed signs.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH NORTH YORK REGIONAL P.D.: Police Chief Hettinger reported that the township has mutual agreements in place with surrounding area police departments. Recently, Southwestern Regional Police Department dissolved and Northern York County Regional Police Department took over patrolling for Heidelberg and Manheim Townships. Police Chief Hettinger has spoken with Police Chief Lash to see if he would like to continue with the agreement. He is in favor, but would like to see the agreement. Police Chief Hettinger asked Manger Rodgers to have the solicitor review, and his responded that there would be no issues. The committee suggested moving forward with the agreement.

REVIEW OF THE HANOVER AREA FIRE & RESCUE MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported that at the recent Fire Commission Meeting they awarded a citation to West Manheim resident Austin Wickham, a young man who had called 911 reporting a fire on Baltimore Street. Energy Systems Group, which is working on all three buildings to address air leaks and HAVC problems is starting with the Wirt Park Station very shortly. The repairs on the basement at the Clearview Street station that flooded last year have been completed. A presentation of recognition was held for Mr. Sheppard for his years of service with the Steering Committee and the Commission. He was presented with citations from Representative Kate Klunk's and Governor Wolf's office. Commissioner Brown stated that the issues with the volunteers were tabled. Fire Chief Clouser explained the volunteer companies have previously had agreements with each municipality, but now that they are merging and coming under the Commission there needs to be an agreement with the Commission. Commissioner Brown requested copies of the agreements be sent to Commissioner Felix and alternate Commissioner Heiland who are new to the Fire Commission Committee, and suggested discussing further in executive session. Fire Chief Clouser stated the documents would be forthcoming in the morning.

OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Felix asked Fire Chief Clouser if sidewalk is being installed at the Clover Lane Station, along the new section bordering the JA Myers

Development. Manager Rodgers stated she believes it is in the Land Development Plan. Fire Chief Clouser will check further into the matter.

EMA Coordinator Jeffrey Waltman presented his report for December. He reported that he received information from Met Ed personnel that the stream is clear of PCB contamination after the recent transformer oil spill on Popular Street that ran into the tributary at Plum Creek off of Frederick Street. He added that his office will relocate from the Penn Township Municipal Building to the Clover Lane Station. Coordinator Waltman encouraged the committee to attend the Incident Command training for Executives and local officials that will be held in March.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: Mr. Gary Bauer, spoke in reference to the crosswalk issue. He suggested the township may want to check into LED flashing lights that are triangular, flashing non-stop and are operated by solar battery power. Commissioner Felix thanked Mr. Bauer for his suggestion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney
Township Secretary