

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 4, 2021

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, January 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via an online meeting. Present were Chairman Brown and Commissioners Cromer, Elksnis, Heiland and Van de Castle. 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 December 21, 2020, Penn Township Board of Commissioners Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues. Chairman Brown announced that there will be an executive session held after the Public Works meeting this evening.

Commissioner Brown read a summary of the online public meeting guidelines.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the December 7, 2020, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

PROBATIONARY OFFICER COMPLETING PROBATION: Police Chief Hettinger reported Officer David Irvin will complete probationary status on January 8, 2021. He stated that Officer Irvin has been doing a fine job, and will promote him to 1st year patrolman status.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported that the last Fire Commission Meeting the agreement with the Hanover Area Volunteer Fire and Rescue has been finalized, the 2021 Hanover Area Fire Commission Budget, and new By-Laws have been adopted. The work with ESG is nearing completion, and warranties will go into effect once work has been completed. Chairman Brown asked if the Commission will be ready to reorganize and vote on the two committees that are to be established. Chief Clouser stated he needs to confirm with a few members at Hanover Borough, and the appointments will be open for discussion at the next meeting. Chief Clouser stated that work is being done at the Clover Lane Station in the apparatus room, there are issues with water/oil separator not draining, causing a back-up onto the floor. Chief Clouser reported that he received notice from UPMC that the career firefighters who have their EMS certification have the option to receive the COVID vaccination. Chief Clouser added that there is a shortage with the EMS PPE supplies of gowns and they are working with EMA Coordinator Waltman for acquisition. Chief Clouser also reported he obtained information regarding an EMS billing service that will bill for certain types of calls, up to three years in the past. He mentioned at the commission meeting to see if there is interest in this service and will report once he has more details to share.

EMA UPDATE: EMA Coordinator Waltman reviewed his December report. EMA Coordinator Waltman also updated the Committee on the current COVID statistics. He is working to obtain PPE gowns for the EMS. He intends to work with the food bank to organize another food distribution drive thru event. Coordinator Waltman reported he is working to obtain his drone certification and plans to offer his services to local emergency departments.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION EXTENSION: Chairman Brown reported the Emergency Declaration began on March 16, 2020, and has been extended thus far. The committee agreed to extend the Emergency Declaration through January 11, 2021.

OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Kara Stultz, 6 Scott Street, requested an update on 4 Scott Street. Ms. Stultz stated that the situation is getting worse. Chairman Brown stated he is frustrated, and the situation is in the hands of the solicitor at this time. Zoning Officer Smith reported that a letter was obtained from the solicitor and mailed to the resident on December 17, 2020. To date, no response has been received. Department of Aging, Adult Protective Services have closed the case because of lack of cooperation from the resident. The resident stated that he will not vacate. Zoning Officer Smith is prepared to condemn the property in ten days, and is waiting for the go ahead from the Committee. Mrs. Stultz stated that the residents have added more items to the piles outside and were moving items around to dissipate the rats. Mrs. Stultz stated the rats are starting to migrate beyond the property and have been found on Sherman Street. The Committee agreed that Zoning Officer Smith should move forward with the plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary