

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 3, 2020

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, February 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Felix and Commissioners Brown, Elksnis, Heiland and Van de Castle. 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: Chairman Felix read the announcement of the executive session that was held following the January 20, 2020, Penn Township Board of Commissioners Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues with the solicitor.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the January 6, 2020 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Mary Beth Norton, 5 O'Neill Avenue, reported that due to the increased traffic on O'Neill Avenue and also a truck that is parking to the side of her parking area she is having difficulty coming out of her driveway. She is requesting to have no parking designated to the side of her driveway. Commissioner Felix requested Police Chief Hettinger to look into the matter and report back to the committee at the March Public Safety Committee Meeting.

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. He has received numerous complaints stating the street parking is obstructing the flow of traffic. Commissioner Felix stated there are several options; leave as is, make one side of the street no parking, make both sides of the street no parking, widen the street installing curbing and charging the curbing cost to the residents. The committee agreed upon making the south side of the street no parking. Commissioner Felix requested that Police Chief Hettinger notify the residents affected and add the subject to the March Public Safety Meeting in case any residents want to express their concerns.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Police Chief Hettinger reported that the township received a letter dated January 10, 2020 from the Allied Veterans Council to hold the Annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2020. Commissioner Heiland stated that EMA Coordinator Jeff Waltman may want to consider contacting them regarding safety plans during the parade. Manager Rodgers will find out who will ride along in the parade and carry the flag to the cemetery. The committee had no objections to the request.

NEW DRUG DISPOSAL BOX: Police Chief Hettinger reported that he was contacted by Rite Aid Corporation that has a nonprofit organization to keep drugs away from kids,

offering to supply a 45-gallon capacity medication disposal box at no cost. The container is larger than the current container in place. The committee had no problems with the installation.

RECORDS TO BE DESTROYED: Police Chief Hettinger submitted a request to have the following documents shredded: Purchase Orders (2009-2011), 2014 Accident Reports, Traffic Citations, Incident Reports, 2015 -2016 Patrol Daily Logs, and Supervisor Incident Logs (2017 and prior). Manager Rodgers stated this will need to be done by resolution. The committee suggested adopting the resolution.

SOUTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION FOUNDATION 5K: Police Chief Hettinger reported that the township received a letter dated January 27, 2020 from South Western School District informing the township of a 5K run and a ½ mile Kids Fun Run to be held on May 2, 2020. They are requesting to close Bowman Road on this day from 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Chief Hettinger reported this is the same request as they have had in the past, and there have been no issues with the event. Chief Hettinger will send his usual letter.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CROSSWALK LIGHTING: Police Chief Hettinger summarized the request from last month's discussion for crosswalk lights on Wilson Avenue and Karen Lane. Chief Hettinger stated that the crosswalks are currently marked, and adding the signs would be at a significant cost. At the request of the committee last month, Chief Hettinger posted an electronic speed sign on Karen Lane, over a period of 9 days, reporting one lane of traffic. Of the 5,477 vehicles that were recorded, 91 vehicles traveled over 45 miles an hour, which is the threshold for citation. Chief Hettinger added that if signage were to be pursued, approval of installation must go through Penn Dot. Commissioner Felix stated that the township would be responsible for maintenance and upkeep, but did not want to purchase the lighting. Commissioner Elksnis asked Mr. Todd Wagner, Health & Safety Manager at ESAB, if they would be willing to make a commitment to purchase. Mr. Wagner stated that he can make a verbal commitment that they want to participate in trying to get the situation corrected, but he does not have the authority to commit to the purchase at this time. Commissioner Felix requested Chief Hettinger work with Mr. Wagner to research options on style and cost of the signs and electricity, so he would have the information to present to ESAB. The committee was in favor of the of the signs and future upkeep, however do not want to incur the cost of the purchase.

REVIEW OF THE HANOVER AREA FIRE & RESCUE MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported that at the recent Fire Commission Meeting Mr. Burt Elsner was appointed to replace Mr. Sheppard on the Steering Committee. The Commission continues to work on the agreement with the volunteers. Chief Clouser is beginning to regularly meet with both Penn Township and Hanover Borough Mangers prior to the commission meeting to work on the commission agenda, by-laws and Roberts Rule of Order for the Commission Meeting. He also stated that he would like to work on consolidating the committees of the commission, and would like an elected official from both Penn Township and Hanover Borough to be appointed to each of the committees.

Commissioner Heiland asked if the Commission is working on obtaining a solicitor. Chief Clouser stated that he is working with both Managers on finding a solicitor, and possibly getting someone from outside of the Hanover area. Commissioner Felix stated the township received a letter from the Firefighter Association commending the participation in the MDA Boot Drive. The Hanover Commission had the highest amount raised by Local 2045. The Committee commended the Commission on their efforts.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Jeff Waltman presented his report for January. He reported on a recent power outage involving Met-Ed. He is monitoring updates on the Coronavirus with the CDC. The relocation of his office to the Clover Lane Station should be completed by late February.

OTHER MATTERS: Police Chief Hettinger informed the Committee that the front office will be closed on February 12, 2020 due to mandatory staff training on the RMS Cody. He will post a notice on the front door and on Facebook. The department will be open and accept 911 calls. He added that if anyone would need to make a payment, they would be able to do so at the Municipal Office. Chief Hettinger wanted to inform the Committee about the great job Officer Wheeler did for finding and reporting the fire on January 25 at Sign of the Horse Brewery.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney  
Township Secretary