

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
June 3, 2019

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Brown and Commissioners Heiland, Klunk, 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. Commissioner Felix was absent with notice. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the May 6, 2019 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

MUNICIPAL BUILDING / POLICE DEPARTMENT ROOF REPLACEMENT: The roof over the police department is leaking and in need of replacement. Three quotes were received and Manager Rodgers reported that the solicitor's opinion was that it is okay to replace only the portion of the roof over the Police Department due to being included in the budget. The committee had no objections, and moved to move forward with the project.

UPDATE ON ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR FIREFIGHTER: Fire Chief Clouser reported that out of seventeen candidates, seven passed the physical agility test, within those seven, six passed the written test. June 15 the oral boards will be held, at which point a list will be presented to the Civil Service Commission for Certification. He added that McCann Associates, who administers the written portion said the number of applicants are down nationwide.

PROPOSAL FOR 1 ACRE TRACT OF LAND AT CLOVER LAND FIRE STATION: Fire Chief Clouser stated that he feels the best option at this time is to grade, seed, and remain as field. Sewer plant has completed some upgrades have been made and prevent using space as a pump test training pad. Fire Chief Clouser would like to continue to research options for the land.

UPDATE ON ENTRANCE TO RIPPLE DRIVE FROM FIRE STATION: Fire Chief Clouser reported that JA Myers would complete the entrance for \$14,000.00. This has been in the Land Development plan for the building. This would be used for a volunteer entrance to prevent crossing the apron, and allowing for equipment to enter through the back of the building to alleviate making a sharp turn into the building. Engineer Bortner is going to look into the costs to see if Public Works can do the project at a lesser cost. The Committee agreed to wait for report from Engineer Bortner.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Chief Hettinger reported that National Night Out will be held August 6, 2019, at the Target Parking Lot in Penn Township.

OTHER MATTERS: Fire Chief Clouser reported that Representatives Frank A. Garry, Gene DiGirolamo have introduced an amendment to the Fireworks Law – Prior HB 2752 due to numerous complaints which have also been occurring in the Township. This would permit local municipalities to have reasonable control of the sale and use of fireworks, provide setbacks, set timeframes for use, and increase the criminal penalties for selling or using consumer fireworks in violation of the Act. The legislation would fulfill part of the recommendation of the SR 6 Commission.

Fire Chief Clouser reported on a memo received from Sen Lindsey M. Williams regarding the expansion of the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program to all fire service providers. This enables low interest loans to volunteer fire, ambulance, and rescue companies for the purpose of purchasing and modernizing facilities, equipment, and apparatus.

Police Chief Hettinger stated that the Pa Supreme Court came down with decision regarding DUI checkpoints. They ruled that the checkpoints are unconstitutional if the municipalities did not have an ordinance allowing the participation. Governing body must authorize participation via an ordinance. The committee agreed to consult with the solicitor before moving forward with any checkpoints.

An aggressive driving wave will be conducted beginning July 8 – August 25.

EMA Jeff Watman received his official instatement letter from the governor's office last month. He recapped on a hazmat incident where a manufacturing facility on Middle Street, had a spill going into the storm water, and creek. He is working with hazmat in PA on diluting the spill.

The Township received very little storm damage from the other evening. There were a few limbs down and a roof that came off a home on Ruth Avenue.

Mr. Watman added that he attended a training session last month with the PA State Department of Homeland Security, regarding events of 10,000 attendees or more. The sponsoring agency will be responsible for putting together an emergency plan and would be required to work with local municipalities for the event.

He is currently working on updating the emergency plan for the Township. A resolution will need to be adopted to promulgate the plan.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. Sweeney
Township Secretary