

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JUNE 3, 2024

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 7 p.m. Present were Chairman Heiland, Commissioners Baile, Berlingo, Brown, and Elksnis. Also present were Township Manager Ledley, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Heiland announced that an executive session was held on May 20, 2024, following the Board of Commissioners meeting to consult with the solicitor to discuss personnel issues and other matters involving attorney client privilege. Additionally, he announced that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024, will begin at 6 p.m. starting with the Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting followed by the Finance Committee Meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the May 6, 2024, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Kelly King-Trench, 25 Quail Ridge Road, a board member of the Colonial Acres Homeowners Association was present to express concerns of speeding vehicles in their community posing safety risks to young bicyclists and pedestrians. She asked if the speed limit could be reduced from 25 miles per hour to 15 miles per hour and installing speed bumps to deter fast driving.

Police Chief Hettinger responded by stating that speed limits are established by the State for specific types of roads, he proposed targeted enforcement and the implementation of electronic speed signs to promote awareness and ensure adherence to current speed limits. He explained that speed bumps pose logistical difficulties during winter and maintenance issues related to road surfaces.

Tom Trench, 25 Quail Ridge Road, expressed concerns about safety issues on Black Rock Road where it intersects with Baltimore Street, particularly regarding a dangerous left-hand turn. He noted the frequent occurrence of vehicles making unsafe left turns despite traffic conditions, highlighting the need for action to mitigate risks to pedestrians and drivers.

Police Chief Hettinger mentioned that a traffic study is underway to potentially restrict left turns at the intersection.

PTPA COLA AGREEMENT: Manager Ledley reported an agreement between the Township and the police union had been previously negotiated with input from legal representatives and the personnel committee. Despite having reached an agreement, the finalization process had been delayed, resulting in the need for further clarification regarding compensation for the year

2023. Chairman Heiland suggested that the township honor the originally proposed cap of 4% for the year 2023, and to authorize Manager Ledley to communicate this decision to the police union.

POLICE PATROL SERGEANT PROMOTIONAL EXAM: Police Chief Hettinger reported with the retirement of Sergeant Breighner there is a need to promote a new sergeant and hire a replacement officer. Interviews were conducted, and a candidate was identified as the top choice. Chief Hettinger sought approval to make a conditional offer to the selected candidate. He asked the Committee if he had permission to hire another officer to account for a potential future retirement. The Committee requested Chief Hettinger to obtain written confirmation from the second sergeant before making any decisions regarding additional hires.

UPDATE TO THE 2018 FIRE CODE: Fire Chief Clouser presented an overview of a proposed ordinance to update the fire code. He outlined the transition from the 2015 edition to the 2018 edition, noting that despite the state's continued use of the 2018 Uniform Construction Code (UCC), the 2021 building code had not yet been adopted. He addressed specific elements within the proposed update, including regulations for mobile food preparation vehicles, gate key switches, and connections to municipal fire alarm systems. It was agreed to thoroughly review the proposed changes and discuss detailed provisions at the next meeting. The Committee requested the fire code update as an agenda item for the following month to facilitate further examination and clarification as needed.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported the board approved the personnel and HR policies after review by the commission solicitor, incorporating suggested amendments. Updates regarding administrative efforts with ISOLT, a payroll and HR management company, and Brown Plus, handling financial matters, were discussed. There was mention of ongoing discussions about potentially updating the 2018 fire code in relation to a food truck ordinance across both municipalities. The location for the Fourth of July fireworks was confirmed to remain unchanged from last year, scheduled for 9:30 PM on the 4th of July with a rain date set for the 5th.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Waltman submitted his report for March.

OTHER MATTERS: Police Chief Hettinger announced the upcoming graduation of Officer Waltersdorff from the academy on June 20th, noting that he, and President Commissioner Elksnis would attend the ceremony.

He also informed the Committee about the Diocese of Harrisburg's annual pilgrimage walk, to take place on June 4, 2024, starting in Adams County and scheduled to conclude at St. Joseph's in the area around 4 or 5 p.m. While no road closures were requested, patrols were made aware of the event to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Additionally, Chief Hettinger reported that all necessary data for upgrading the Township's Internet and phone systems had been compiled and distributed. Final decisions regarding the

upgrades, which include transitioning to fiber Internet at two locations and implementing a modern phone system with caller IDs, would be made in the coming days or weeks.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Nicole Sellers, residing at 730 McAllister Street, inquired about a potential amendment to the zoning ordinance, specifically Article 3, Section 320, concerning commercial vehicle parking on residential lots. Zoning Officer Smith stated he provided his cell phone number to the resident who had raised concerns of the commercial vehicle and had received no follow-up from the complainant.

Michelle Koch, residing at 46 Frock Drive, raised concerns about speeding but specifically about the hazardous blind curve in the Colonial Acres neighborhood located around 46 Frock Drive . There are vehicles parking on both sides of Frock Drive around the curve, creating a significant safety hazard. She stated its dangerous when backing into her steep driveway due to the risk of oncoming vehicles. Chief Hettinger suggested a traffic study could be done to propose parking on one side of the street only.

Cindy Burnett, residing at 171 Pheasant Run Lane, echoed the concerns about speeding and hazardous curves. She recounted an accident a few years ago involving her son, caused by the difficulty in navigating the curve due to the parked cars.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary