

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
JULY 6, 2020

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, July 6, 2020, 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, Public Works Supervisor Ortman, Zoning Officer Smith, MS4 Stormwater Coordinator Hirt, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Brown announced that there was an executive session held following the Board of Commissioners Meeting on June 15, 2020.

Chairman Brown read the Summary of the Public Meeting Guidelines.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the June 1, 2020 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Amanda Beard-White, Executive Director of the Hanover Area Diversity Alliance presented the committee with a proposed ordinance regarding anti-discrimination, and spoke about creating a Hanover Area Human Relations Commission. The committee thanked Ms. Beard-White, and stated that they would need time to review the document.

Mr. William Wilke, 16 Earl Street, spoke about his concerns regarding the "thin blue line" face masks that have been worn by police officers.

HANOVER AREA NIGHT OUT: Police Chief Hettinger reported National Night Out is scheduled for August 4, 2020, under the current limitations due to COVID19, he recommends cancelling the event this year. Manager Rodgers added that she can work with Chief Hettinger on alternate ideas to honor the event. The committee was in favor of cancelling the event, and asked to be kept updated on alternate ideas.

HANOVER HOMECOMING PARADE: The Committee received a letter dated June 1, 2020, from the Hanover Area School District requesting permission to conduct their annual Hanover Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 9, 2020. The committee recommended approving the request.

POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS: Police Chief Hettinger reported the township currently has dashboard cameras through Watchguard. Chief Hettinger received a quote for a minimum of twelve body cameras for \$29,585, which would include the cameras and software, licensing and server. Chief Hettinger was put in contact with

Dave Meckly of the Warehime Foundation, Mr. Meckly felt that this was overdue and a benefit to the community. The township will receive a grant for \$35,000.00. The committee recommended approving the grant.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported the last Fire Commission Meeting was held at the Clover Lane Station. Chief Clouser stated after much discussion and research, they decided to shut down the ALS Ambulance at the Clearview Station on George Street, which was available 12/7. The commission will continue to run the Clover Lane and Wirt Park Stations 24/7.

Chairman Brown commented on the PA Municipal League action call to support legislation to have municipalities govern fireworks use. The committee agreed that Manager Rodgers contact our local representatives in support.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Jeff Waltman presented his report for June.

OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Wilke readdressed his concern of the "thin blue line". Chairman Brown stated that Manager Rodgers will discuss uniforms with Police Chief Hettinger.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney  
Township Secretary