

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. 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 and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Brown read the announcement of the executive session that was held following the August 17, 2020, Penn Township Board of Commissioners Meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the August 3, 2020 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None.

PROPOSED FIREWORKS ORDINANCE: Commissioner Brown reported that the committee received a draft ordinance in regards to the use of consumer fireworks, and opened the floor for discussion. Police Chief Hettinger stated that in section 1.12, the wording of "to permit the use" may be problematic. The committee suggested the wording to be changed to "to knowingly or unknowingly permit the use". Commissioner Elksnis questioned if the penalty is progressive. The committee agreed this ordinance is meant to be a deterrent, and suggested to change the offense to a strict penalty amount of \$500, plus fees. The committee recommended adopting the ordinance once the suggested changes have been made.

POLICE 2021 BUDGET PRESENTATION: Police Chief Hettinger presented an overview of the 2021 police budget. As it is proposed the total expenses will be \$4,789,892. They are proposing five new Ballistic Duty Vests, a new police computer server, data storage for the body cameras, and data encryption software. Two police cruisers are scheduled for replacement, and will need to be outfitted with new equipment, because the current equipment will not fit to transfer to the new vehicles. The committee asked questions regarding the budget items

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported the last Fire Commission Meeting was held on August 20th via online software. Subjects covered included the volunteer relief association, Penn Township and Hanover Borough's associations have merged to form the Hanover Area Volunteer Fire & Rescue Relief Association of York County. Chief Clouser had forwarded the information to the managers for when the state reports need to be submitted for funding. The annual volunteer solicitation has been mailed to the residents. The 2021 budget was submitted to the commission for review. There is a significant increase due to PTVES, which is currently in negotiations to join the commission, and therefore would not be invoiced as

a separate entity. Commissioner Brown expressed concern with the volunteer services owing a significant amount to the commission, and how that will affect the commission if/when they should join.

Chief Clouser stated that there is a grant available through the state fire commissioner's office that he applies to every year. This year they opened a second round to apply due to expenses incurred from COVID-19, up to December 31, 2020.

EXTENSION OF THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR COVID-19: Manager Rodgers stated that the declaration began on March 16, 2020, and have extended it thus far, and the governor extended the declaration for the state for ninety days. The committee agreed to extend the Covid-19 Emergency Declaration.

OTHER MATTERS: None.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: Mr. Jack Corriere, 114 Oak Hill Drive, commended the committee on the access of the past meetings held via the ZOOM online software.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney
Township Secretary