

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2022

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Elksnis and Commissioners Berlingo, Brown and Heiland. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, and Township Secretary Sweeney. Commissioner Allison was absent with notice. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Elksnis announced there was an executive session held following the September 19, 2022, Board of Commissioners Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the September 6, 2022, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

2023 POLICE BUDGET: Police Chief Hettinger presented an overview of the 2023 police budget. The total proposed expenses for police protection are \$5,274,181. For police protection Chief Hettinger added the expenses for HACC Police Academy, FBINAA Leadership Training, Cellebrite training and certification. He reported increases in insurances, utilities, YEC Data terminal fee, and AED yearly calibration. There is an addition for a laptop for the detectives, and cell connection for two speed signs. The Taser CERT program, year 1 of 5, will be an additional \$7,100, this will provide ten new taser 70s to replace the older systems. He reported under headquarter expenses, that if the department decides to transition to the Cody Pathfinder program, there is a one-time fee of \$7,150. For Capital Outlay, he requested funds for the WatchGuard redactive software/warranty, new carpeted mats, a server closet door, typewriter, and an FOB reader walk in gate. For vehicle expenses, he reported increases of insurance, and vehicle maintenance. He included expenses to replace six portable radios, purchase two marked SUV style police cruisers plus the equipment to outfit one vehicle. One of the vehicles to be replaced is car 15, the first pick up truck that was purchased. Chief Hettinger stated he would like to take this vehicle as a replacement for the detective's vehicle, then eliminate the cost for repair to the current vehicle.

2023 FIRE BUDGET: Fire Chief Clouser reported there are two proposed options for the fire budget. First is a budget without moving the firefighters to the Fire Commission, this option totals \$835,000, per municipality, which includes a \$16,017 deficit. Expenses include the repair of the black top at the rear of station no. 3, he reported he is trying to obtain a grant to sealcoat station no. 2, and expenses for the replacement for three-inch and five-inch hose. Under Capital expenses, they are looking to retesting one and replacing one of the MICU vehicles. The 2004 sump & pumper needs to be replaced in 2024, there is currently a 1-2-year lead on orders. He is proposing to replace the Chief's

vehicle and move this vehicle to the medic unit, and replace the utility truck at station 3. Chief Clouser added that he included hydrant rental, repair and maintenance in the budget. The budget with moving the firefighters to the Fire Commission and including the expenses would be about 8.4 million. With grants and other revenue this is reduced to 7.1 million, which would be about 3.7 million per municipality.

PCCD GRANT: Police Chief Hettinger reported PCCD stands for Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and they offer a grant for local law enforcement. He is looking at three areas for the grant funding; Retention and sign on for each officer, replace the in-car cameras, along with ten body cameras, and upgrade the video system at the police and administration building with inside and outside cameras, totaling \$142,000. This is a competitive grant, and funds would have to be spent out of the Township funds then would be reimbursed. The Township would be notified if we would be receiving the grant funds prior to purchasing, and if the grant is not received, he would not pursue the items at this time.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported that the Fire Commission budget is running about ten percent above projected revenue and about two percent below for expenses. They presented a preliminary review of the proposed budget for the finance and personnel committees. He stated that they are anticipating about a 13.7% increase for insurance for the Fire Chief and Executive Secretary. The business manager is currently shopping for insurance rates. EMS responded to 452 calls, 196 in Penn Township for the month of September. Crews are missing approximately 25-30 calls for service per month due to volume and availability. They are still following COVID protocols. There was discussion with Solicitors Hovis and Iannacone on how the Fire Commission should operate. They were in agreement that the Fire Commission should be in charge, and the process of moving the employees under the Commission should begin.

Chief Clouser reported that the written Captain's exam took place, and the oral exam will be conducted on Monday, October 10, 2022.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Waltman reviewed his September report.

OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Heiland thanked the police and fire departments for their work on the Community Park Creative Playground grand opening held on September 24, 2022.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. Sweeney, Township Secretary