

PENN TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 2014

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee met on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Prieber and Commissioners Klunk, Felix, Goldsmith and Heilman. Also present were Manager Garvick, Police Chief Laughlin, Fire Chief Cromer and Administrative Assistant Rodgers. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Prieber read the announcement of the executive session held following the Board of Commissioners meeting on February 17, 2014. Commissioner Felix announced an executive personnel session would be held following the finance committee meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 4, 2014 public safety committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASES: Chief Cromer provided a price quote for the purchase of a desktop computer to be used by the career firefighters to submit their state reports. This computer would be placed at the volunteer station, which currently owns all the computers. Chief Cromer is proposing purchasing the computer for \$1,269 from Phase III technologies, the computer company utilized by the volunteer fire department. The new computer will be connected to the volunteer fire company's server. Chief Cromer would also like to purchase thirty batteries for the Macomm radios. This would be a cost of \$2,160 for all of the batteries. The Committee agreed to allow Chief Cromer to purchase these items.

GOLD'S GYM 5K: Chief Laughlin received a request from Gold's Gym to conduct a 5k run on June 8, 2014 through the Thornhill and Hickory Hills developments. Mike Rabine was present to discuss the request and provided a map of the route. He stated that he has contacted the presidents of both home homeowners' associations to inform them of the event and all the residents would be notified. The committee would not sanction the event, stating that it would be held at their own risk and they would be responsible for the safety of the participants.

HANOVER TROLLEY TRAIL: Manager Garvick provided information from the York County Rail Trail Authority about what they require from an applicant in order to utilize the trail for an organized event. After a brief discussion, the committee recommended not sanctioning any event on the trail. The committee agreed that, should there be sanctioning of any event, there should be rules and regulations in place. However, at this point the consensus was that the trail is for public use and can be used by anyone as long as they don't violate the basic trail regulations.

YORK COUNTY RADIO SYSTEM: Manager Garvick reported that the County of York recently approved \$27M for a modification of the county radio system. The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 require agencies using the T-Band spectrum to vacate those frequencies. Our police and fire companies switched from analog to digital systems in 2008 and 2009 but the frequencies used by the current system, 500-512 MHz, will no longer be available, as they will be auctioned off to other users. In the northeast portion of the country there is a shortage of frequencies and that is why they are being reassigned. The theory is that the resale of the frequencies will provide revenue to help offset the cost of purchasing and providing the new

system. The new system will operate in the 700 MHz range. Eric Bistline indicated that the County is moving quickly because they fear that if they don't there won't be any frequencies available down the road.

This means the county will have to replace all the portable, mobile and base radios that were purchased and provided to fire and police between 2008 and 2009. The Township's public works departments, including all the wastewater radios, are not affected as we chose to keep the 45MHz frequency and not replace those radios due to the high cost. This meant, however, that interoperability with public works disappeared with the new system. There is no way we can contact them and police and fire cannot monitor the public works frequency. To do so would require multiple radios. This is not practical because of the cost and lack of space in the vehicles in order to support multiple radios. To help with this situation the public works director was issued a portable radio to allow him to maintain communications with fire and police. The County has no plan to provide any additional public works radios in the new system, which I think is a huge mistake. The cost to include radios for public works would be \$100 per year for each radio plus the cost of the radio itself, somewhere between \$1100-1300. There is also no plan to replace any pagers.

The County must, in addition to replacing the radio frequency, replace the antennas. The cost to change all end user radios countywide is \$10M. They will replace every portable, mobile and base unit purchased under the original procurement. They will also replace any additional radios purchased subsequently from Harris, Motorola or any qualified vendor on the County's list. How the swap will occur and what will become of the old radios is unclear at this point. We do know that Lancaster County is getting ready to implement a radio system in the same T-band spectrum that we are abandoning. Perhaps there would be a market for our discarded units here or somewhere else.

The project is not scheduled for completion until 2017 but the commissioners should be kept apprised of the situation.

FIRE INSPECTIONS: The Fire Chief, Township Manager and the Public Safety Committee will meet on March 4, 2014 to review the fire inspection policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina J. Rodgers, Township Secretary