

PENN TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 3, 2011

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee met on Monday, January 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Present were Chairman Felix and Commissioners Prieber, Heilman, Goldsmith and Rewa. Also present were Manager Garvick, Police Chief Rhodes, 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 December 20, 2010. There was an executive session held before this meeting to interview candidates for the Civil Service Commission. Another executive session will be held prior to the Public Works Committee meeting to interview additional candidates for the Civil Service Commission.

APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the December 7, 2010 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: None.

POLICE CRUISER BIDS: Chief Rhodes reported on the police cruiser bids that were opened at the Hanover Borough Council meeting. There were bids submitted for Penn's vehicles from New Holland Auto Group, Hertrich Fleet Services, and Gene Latta Ford. He stated that both New Holland and Hertrich noted exceptions to the bid specifications. New Holland Auto also had a miscalculation on their bid price. Gene Latta did have an exception to the bid that was the same as all the other bidders. The specification requested 18" wheels and the cars are currently only built with 17" wheels. All three bidders bid the 17" wheels. Chief Rhodes recommended that Gene Latta be awarded the bid because they bid the cars basically as specified. He suggested that the bid not be separated, which would entail more than one supplier. There were four exceptions in the New Holland bid. The bid price for all three vehicles is \$77,262. Deducting the insurance settlement of \$15,294 the net cost will be \$61,967.

The bidders also submitted prices for Dodge vehicles but they were slightly higher than the Fords. There would also be additional costs with the Dodge's because of the retrofitting that would be required for the cages and other interior equipment. Chief Rhodes reported that 2011 is the last year Ford will be producing the Crown Victoria. Ford will be producing a completely new police interceptor in 2012. The Township would have to choose between a Dodge or the new Ford vehicle next year. There is some concern about the Chevy vehicles because they are built outside the country. The Committee recommended awarding the bid to Gene Latta Ford at the next BOC meeting.

YC911 RADIO ISSUES: Chief Cromer reported on another incident of communications failure regarding a fire call in West Manheim Twp. The responders lost communication with YCC. Several different companies attempted to get a response from YCC but with no success. The companies could hear each other's transmissions but there was nothing from YCC. Finally, YCC was contacted by cell phone. Chief Cromer is frustrated because there are constant problems with the York County Radio system. He noted that the paging system was also down for six hours and nobody was sure when it went down and how long it was down. Chief Cromer indicated that the Township is fortunate in that response personnel are at the fire station twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. He believes that the Penn Township Board of Commissioners should contact the York County Commissioners again and raise the issue of these reoccurring failures of the system. Chief Cromer reported that Firefighter Erik Brown tried to communicate with York County

regarding the most recent failure but received very little satisfaction with regards to when the system would be fixed. The Township has also received a grievance letter from the IAFF with regards to their safety. Commissioner Felix believes that the letter from the firemen should be sent to the York County Commissioners. Manager Garvick stated that the York County Commissioners have asked to be kept informed of problems. Commissioner Heilman stated state Senator Mike Waugh should be contacted since the county mandated the township to use the system. Chief Cromer cannot understand how engineers working on these problems have not been able to find and solve the problems that the firefighters are having. There is concern about not only the safety of our firefighters but the general public. Manager Garvick was instructed to contact the York County Commissioners on the problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Garvick, Manager