

PENN TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
APRIL 2, 2012

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee met on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Present were Chairman Prieber and Commissioners Felix, Klunk, Goldsmith and Heilman. Also present were Manager Garvick, Deputy Police Chief Laughlin, Fire Chief Cromer and Administrative Assistant Rodgers. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Prieber announced an executive session was held following the Board of Commissioners meeting on March 19, 2012 and on March 27, 2012 to discuss personnel and contract negotiation issues. Commissioner Felix announced "the Penn Township Board of Commissioners recently received notification that Police Chief Russell L. Rhodes will be retiring as of May 7, 2012. Chief Rhodes has been a member of the police force for the past 37 years. His experience and dedication will be missed. Until such time as the Commissioners decide on a permanent replacement the department will continue to function efficiently and effectively under the direction of Deputy Chief James Laughlin".

APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the March 5, 2012 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Mike Baker, 1030 Friar Run, inquired of the committee about the possibility of either upgrading the police firing range or constructing a regional firing range. He was aware of the fact that the current training range could be eliminated sometime in the future if the area was needed for expansion of the wastewater treatment plant. He provided the committee with handouts and specification regarding construction of training ranges. The Committee will review his recommendations.

SWSD MINI TRIATHLON: The Committee received a request dated March 26, 2012 from South Western School District to close Bowman Road next to the South Western School District property to conduct a triathlon on May 5, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The parking lot will be open to provide access to South Western Road. They are requesting fire police to be in the area to help direct traffic. The police department has no problems with closing the road on a Saturday. Deputy Chief Laughlin will check with the school district to find out how many participants and parents will be involved in the event. The police department will provide coverage along Bowman Road. The Committee recommended approving the request.

BALTIMORE STREET: The police department received an email from John Myers requesting the remarking of a section of Baltimore Street to create a right turning lane for the south bound lane of traffic near Bentley's Restaurant and the Auto Zone. The street is only thirty-seven feet in this area. The concern is about the bottleneck because some of the traffic does not move over to the shoulder to make the right turn. The northbound lane in this area is wider because parking on that side was removed. Deputy Chief Laughlin stated there is not much they can do about the turning lane because it is a Penn DOT road and there is not enough room on the street to change the configuration. The Committee

discussed other areas on Route 94 where there are similar problems. The Manager will respond to Mr. Myers and let him know that this would be looked at in the future but probably not anytime soon.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK: Deputy Chief Laughlin reported that the take back program will be held at Giant on April 28, 2012. All medications returned will be placed in a secure container and no personal information will be requested. There will be a state trooper along with a Township officer at the site during the event.

INTERSHIPS: Deputy Chief Laughlin reported that there are two individuals the department has chosen to intern over the summer. Laughlin stated this is not just a ride-along program and everything is done through and approved by the school they are enrolled in. The department interviewed several candidates prior to making a decision and has been running the program for several years.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina J. Rodgers, Township Secretary