

PENN TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
June 7, 2010

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee met on Monday, June 7, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Present were Chairman Felix and Commissioners Prieber, Heilman, Rewa and Goldsmith. Also present were Manager Garvick, Police Chief Rhodes, Fire Chief Cromer and Administrative Assistant Rodgers. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Felix announced a personnel session would be held following the Finance meeting this evening to discuss fire personnel issues.

APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the May 3, 2010 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: None.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Commissioner Felix noted that the Committee members were provided with copies of the nine applications that were submitted for the position of Emergency Management Coordinator. Commissioner Felix suggested that Township Manager Garvick and Fire Chief Cromer review the applications and suggest two or three applicants to interview on Wednesday, June 30 starting at 6:30 p.m.

FIREFIGHTER GRADUATION: Chief Cromer reported that Firefighter Anthony Phillips graduated from the fire academy on May 27 and began working on June 1. He is taking in-house training and is also attending a class at York to achieve his necessary certifications.

HACC FIRE ACADEMY: Chief Cromer reported that HACC has a scholarship program for firefighters attending the academy and the Township received \$1000 for Firefighter Phillips' education.

P.T.V.E.S: Chief Cromer reported that he applied to the State Fire Commissioner's office and received \$30,000 for the volunteer fire company and \$5,000 for the EMS. The grants have already been awarded and must be used toward debt reduction.

2010 POLICE CAR: Chief Rhodes reported that the Township has received the 2010 Crown Victoria. The county computer system has been installed and the painting has been completed. The fire company is installing the radio equipment that was removed from the other vehicle. Commissioner Felix thanked the Fire Department for their help. New Holland Auto would like to be included on the bidder's list for any future vehicle purchases. They handle most models of cars including Fords and Dodges. They delivered the vehicle and took care of all the paperwork.

FIREFIGHTERS: Manager Garvick reported on House Bill 1231 which would cover a volunteer or career firefighter who has been exposed to any fire and who then at some future time develops a cancer associated with heat, gas, radiation, or other known carcinogen. The firefighter will then be eligible for coverage under the municipality's workmen compensation insurance. The firefighter will only have to show that he or she was exposed to a fire while performing their duties to gain the presumption that the cancer was caused by the occupation of firefighting. There is an unlimited time frame for filing a claim

as opposed to the current 300 weeks for a claim to be filed. Manager Garvick is not sure what the cost ramifications would be to the Township's plan. Commissioner Felix is concerned because we did not find out about the legislation from our elected officials but rather from the State Association of Township Commissioners. Commissioner Felix stated that the Township is not necessarily opposed to the coverage as much as it results in another unfunded mandate. He suggests sending a pleasant thank you letter to our elected officials for keeping us informed of the progress of this legislation. Commissioner Heilman suggested that we contact the state associations that we belong to for filing a class action lawsuit because cancer causes can not be determined. There was some concern about the cost of workman's compensation and what other insurance the Township will need to carry to meet the mandate. There is also some concern about the guidelines that will need to be followed by the Fire Company and the Municipality.

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES: Manager Garvick reported that we have received a request from the Hanover Area Council of Churches for the Crop Walk in October. The Committee will review at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Garvick, Manager