

PENN TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 5, 2011

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee met on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 6:30 PM. Present were Chairman Felix and Commissioners Rewa, Prieber, Goldsmith and Heilman. Also present were Manager Garvick, Police Chief Rhodes, Fire Chief Cromer, Administrative Assistant Rodgers and Commissioner-Elect Klunk. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Felix read the announcement of the executive session held following the November 21, 2011 Board of Commissioners meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the November 7, 2011 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None.

MCALLISTER STREET: Chief Rhodes reported that a traffic study has been completed for increasing the no parking zone on Wirt Avenue. The study recommended increasing the no parking on Wirt Avenue beyond the existing 56 feet west of McAllister Street to 83 feet west on the north side. The study also recommended eliminating parking on the north side of Wirt Avenue between McAllister Street and Baltimore Street. The Committee recommended adopting the additional 25 feet of no parking and will revisit eliminating additional parking if this does not alleviate the sight problems.

BAER AVENUE: A request was received to increase the no parking zone in the 700 block of Baer Avenue. Chief Rhodes suggested that a traffic study be performed. The Committee recommended approving a traffic study for this area. The findings will be provided at a future Public Safety meeting.

FIRE PREVENTION ACCOUNT: Manager Garvick asked that the Township be allowed to establish a Fire Prevention Account for donations for fire prevention activities. Chief Cromer reported that the volunteers previously conducted fire prevention activities but the township staff is now doing them. These activities include fire extinguisher training at many of the facilities within the Township, along with presentations at the school districts and retirement communities. Some of these trainings are mandated by the state depending on the type of facility. Instead of charging the businesses or organizations for these services Chief Cromer has been requesting donations. He would like the Township to start picking up the cost of fire prevention using the donated funds similar to the existing Bear Buddy account being used by the police department. The General Fund appropriates several hundred dollars for fire prevention but the volunteers were spending several thousand dollars on fire prevention activities and materials. A new bank account would require a resolution by the Board. If the account is established Chief Cromer would prepare a form letter to send to businesses and organizations which request fire safety and prevention activities asking for donations to the fire prevention fund. There was some concern that this might conflict with the annual solicitation that the volunteers perform. The fire

department conducts many fire trainings throughout the year for private businesses within the Township. It was suggested that if a business or other organization requests the service they should be charged. Chief Cromer would like to try this for one year. The Committee recommended establishing a Fire Prevention Fund by resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina J. Rodgers, Township Secretary