

PENN TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 7, 2015

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee met on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. Present were Commissioners Klunk, Felix, Goldsmith, and Heilman. Commissioner Prieber was absent with notice. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Laughlin, Fire Chief Cromer, Commissioner Elect Brown, Commissioner Elect Van de Castle, and Administrative Assistant Hallett. The following items were discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Felix announced that an executive session to discuss personnel will be held following the Finance Committee meeting. Police Chief Laughlin was asked to stay for this session. A personnel session was held following the December 1, 2015 Health and Sanitation meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 2, 2015 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

RESIGNATION OF FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN: Fire Chief Cromer reported that Dale Crabbs resigned as Fire Police Captain effective January 4, 2016. He is currently not serving any time on the streets but is finishing out his time as Captain. Chief Cromer is looking at two candidates for Fire Police Captain at this time and will have a name to present to the Board of Commissioners by January 4, 2016. Commissioner Goldsmith asked if anything was being done to recognize Captain Crabbs for his years of service. Commissioner Felix suggested a plaque or citation. The committee discussed the options and decided to honor Captain Crabbs with a plaque at the January 4, 2016 Board of Commissioner's meeting.

REPAIRS TO THE AERIAL TRUCK: Fire Chief Cromer reported that the aerial truck had issues a couple of weeks ago. The waterway was leaking and cost \$14,000 to repair. Last week it developed a major hydraulic leak. It was taken to Glick Fire Apparatus in Lancaster. They reported that the main cylinder is cracked and leaking. It would need to be sent to Wisconsin to be repaired and it can't be looked at until March 2016. The cost of the repair would be between \$55,000 and \$75,000. Jeff Parks was sent to maintenance school in Florida when the aerial truck was purchased. Mr. Parks doesn't believe that the cylinder is cracked. A commercial dealer in New Jersey that sells similar trucks was consulted and he believes it is the O-rings that need repaired rather than the cylinder. Chief Cromer decided to order the O-rings for about \$2,000 and try that repair before replacing the cylinder. Chief Cromer pointed out that the truck is fifteen years old and repairs are to be expected. Commissioner Elect Van de Castle asked if the dealer in New Jersey will come to Pennsylvania to do the repair. Chief Cromer responded that he is a consultant rather than a mechanic. He will order the

parts and send them but it will be repaired by Glick Fire. Chief Cromer will keep the Board of Commissioner apprised of the situation VIA email.

INTERVIEW DATES FOR PROBATIONARY PATROLMAN: Commissioner Felix confirmed that interviews will take place on December 15, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

FIRE POLICE: Commissioner Felix confirmed that Fire Chief Cromer has two applicants for Fire Police Captain at this time. Manager Rodgers confirmed that there are also two applicants for Fire Police separate from the two being considered for Fire Police Captain. These candidates are Jason Fisher and Clement Neiderer. Fire Chief Cromer reported that these two applications need to be signed by a member of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Klunk asked if candidates were voted on in the past. After discussion it was decided to vote on these candidates at the December 21, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting.

LETTER FROM BERWICK TOWNSHIP: Manger Rodgers read a letter dated November 25, 2015 from Berwick Township. The letter served as notification that Berwick Township is considering enacting an ordinance setting a ten ton weight limit for Hershey Heights and Race Track Roads. They are seeking the Board of Commissioners comments and concerns because Hershey Heights Road continues into Penn Township. They would like feedback prior to December 14, 2015. Police Chief Laughlin expressed concern about Township vehicles that weigh more than ten tons. Fire Chief Cromer shared this concern and noted that the aerial truck weighs over seventy thousand pounds. Commissioner Klunk questioned why they are seeking this limit. Police Chief Laughlin commented that the road is not currently deteriorating from use. Commissioner Felix would like Manager Rodgers to ask why they see a need for this limit and express concerns about emergency and Township vehicles. He also wanted to make sure Berwick Township is accepting responsibility for enforcement and placement of signs. Commissioner Elect Brown noted that Shank's Farm may be prohibited from running farming operations with this weight restriction. Discussions will resume after getting a response from Berwick Township.

YOUTH AID PANEL: Chief Laughlin reported that he received a letter from the Juvenile Probation Department requesting use of the community room for youth aid panel meetings. They will meet the third Wednesday of each month. Commissioner Felix asked who is responsible for locking and unlocking the doors. Manager Rodgers responded that they pick up the community room key from the front desk each time they use the room. The Committee recommended approving the request.

RESIDENTIAL STREET LIGHTS: Manager Rodgers reported that Assistant to the Engineer Garrett called this afternoon at 4:30 to notify her that the Light House will no longer be able to get sodium vapor lights. He needs to know how developers should proceed when all that's available are LED and CFL bulbs. Commissioner Klunk recommended they use LED lights and the ordinance can be updated at a later date. Commissioner Goldsmith shared concern about the harsh, bright white that comes from LED lights. It may be possible to resolve the harsh lighting with a different lens. The

Commissioners are in favor of LED lights unless Assistant to the Engineer Garrett has a different recommendation.

CENTER STREET: Commissioner Klunk shared concerns about parking on Center Street now that the project has been completed. He wonders if no parking signs should be installed. Police Chief Laughlin offered to do a traffic study to determine how to move forward.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Hallett
Administrative Assistant