

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 2, 2017

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Felix and Commissioners Brown, Heilman, Klunk, and Van de Castle. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Laughlin, Police Lieutenant Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, and Township Secretary Hallett. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Felix read the announcement of executive session that was held following the Board of Commissioners public meeting on September 18, 2017. Commissioner Felix announced an executive session to discuss personnel and other legal matters would be held following the Finance Committee meeting this evening.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the September 5, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Paul Wenzel, 1120 Westminster Avenue, said he was at the Public Safety meeting in August requesting to carry a concealed weapon while in the Township parks. He asked for an update on his request. Commissioner Felix told him the Township Solicitor looked into the request and researched previous appeals filed with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He reported that *Firearms Owners Against Crimes vs. Lower Merion Township* was a PA court case that was decided last year. It held that an ordinance prohibiting persons from carrying firearms within Township parks was inconsistent with the Uniform Firearms Act and the right of the association and individuals to an injunction to prevent enforcement was clear. Mr. Felix said this means people can open carry in the park and concealed carry with a permit. The Township is in the process of replacing the signs in the park that prohibit carrying firearms. Mr. Felix said the court ruling was unclear on whether a municipality can regulate the discharge of firearms. Mr. Felix apologized for the time it took to get back to Mr. Wenzel, but research was needed. Mr. Wenzel shared his views on gun control and then thanked the Board for their decision to allow carrying firearms in the Township parks.

Commissioner Van de Castle pointed out that Mr. Wenzel previously said he walks in the park when it's dark outside. Mr. Wenzel said he's retired now and doesn't have to get up as early to walk, so he's not there in the dark anymore. Commissioner Van de Castle reminded him that the parks are closed from dusk until dawn.

Cecil Butler, 4 Meadow Lane, said he's lived in his home for twenty-five years and started having sump pump problems. Czapp & Griffith came out to look at the problem and said there was a big pipe put over a small one and over time dirt backed up. Czapp & Griffith said they could fix the problem but would need to check with the Township first. They told Mr. Butler that Building Code Officer Darryl Boyd issued a permit for the project but they can't take the line out to the curb. Mr. Butler spoke to Mr. Boyd himself and was told he can't run water into the street. Mr. Butler then spoke to Township Engineer Eric Bortner who told him he cannot run water into the street and

suggested he consider tying it into the sewer line. Mr. Butler said he's retired and on a minimum income and can't afford to do that. Now there is a muddy mess in his yard and he wants permission to run the water into the street.

Commissioner Felix said the water has to be maintained on his property. He said pumping water into the street would create a safety issue when it freezes. He also said he built his home on Cardinal Drive in 1988. He had the same problem and had to run pipes underground the entire length of his property and into the neighbor's yard to attach to the sewer line. He said the Board cannot authorize Mr. Butler to pump water into the street. Mr. Butler asked why Darryl Boyd issued a permit if the work couldn't be completed regardless. Commissioner Felix said he's not sure but Mr. Butler cannot pump water into the street. Mr. Butler talked about neighboring properties that are dumping water on the street. Commissioner Felix said the Township will look into that because no one should be dumping water in the street.

Manager Rodgers said the Township is in the process of addressing all the illegal discharges within the Township now that we're an MS4 permit holder. Things are being addressed as they are identified because the Township can be fined for illegal discharges. Commissioner Felix suggested a French drain and Mr. Butler didn't like that idea. He asked again why he was issued a permit if he couldn't do it and Commissioner Felix said someone will contact him with an answer after it has been looked into.

PLEASANT HILL FIRE POLICE REQUEST: The Committee received a letter dated September 21, 2017 from South Western Music Boosters requesting to use the Pleasant Hill Fire Police on October 7, 2017 for their Showcase of Marching Bands. Police Chief Laughlin said the Boosters asked the Penn Township Fire Police to assist with the event and they were unable. Commissioner Van de Castle pointed out that the letter also asks for approval for any future events and he said he's not comfortable with blanket approval. The Township should be notified of any events that are requesting fire police. He also asked that they give more notice the next time. Police Chief Laughlin will notify them. Manager Rodgers expressed concerns about how the Pleasant Hill Fire Police's liability coverage could be affected without Penn Township approval.

Commissioner Heilman asked if we can have a mutual agreement with Pleasant Hill Fire Company so this doesn't have to be approved every time it comes up. Commissioner Felix said it's nice to receive their requests so we know what events are taking place. Police Chief Laughlin said the Music Boosters are not permitted to go into the road to direct traffic so they always need to request Fire Police or they have the option to pay Flagger Force.

2018 YORK COUNTY SPCA AGREEMENT: Manager Rodgers reported that the 2018 York County SPCA Animal Care and Housing Agreement is ready to be signed. She said the cost is based on the last census and it won't change until 2020 or 2021 when the next census is completed. Commissioner Brown asked if an agreement covering multiple years would be better. Commissioner Klunk said a year is good in case other options become available. The Committee discussed what the SPCA does compared to what Klugh Animal Control does for the Township. Manager Rodgers said Klugh picks up the animals and SPCA houses them. The Township pays Klugh for dogs, any

other animals picked up are billed to the caller. They only pick up live animals. Police Chief Laughlin said dead animals are sometimes picked up by the road crew. If they are chipped or wearing collars the owner is contacted. Deer are usually picked up by the Game Commission. The Committee recommended approving the agreement.

Manager Rodgers said there have been calls from residents requesting Deer Crossing signs on Breezewood Drive. Commissioner Heilman said there are a lot of deer at the intersection of Breezewood Drive and Black Rock Road.

OTHER MATTERS: None.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Hallett
Township Secretary