

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2016

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. Present were Chairman Felix and Commissioners Klunk, Brown, Van de Castle, and Heilman. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Laughlin, Fire Chief Cromer, and Township Secretary Hallett. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Felix announced that an executive session to discuss personnel would be held following the Finance Committee meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 1, 2016 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Tracie Stambaugh with the York County Convention and Visitors Bureau was present to discuss the Visitor's Bureau. Ms. Stambaugh shared that, in addition to her position as a graphic designer with the Visitor's Bureau, she serves on the Main Street Hanover Committee and has participated in Leadership Hanover. The mission of the Visitor's Bureau is to maximize tourism and the economic impact in York County. They are a 501 (C)(6) organization and are primarily funded by the three percent tax on hotels and lodging. They are also a membership organization and local members include Snyder's of Hanover, Markets of Hanover, and Aldus Brewing. They recently hosted the MidAtlantic Junior Olympics swimming event. Ms. Stambaugh thanked the committee for their time and shared information packets with the committee members.

Mr. Carey Crumling of 380 Sonny Street addressed the committee concerning a letter he received from the Township requesting that he trim a blue spruce pine tree on his property. The letter requested that eight feet be trimmed from the bottom of the tree and he thinks that will be very unattractive and has determined that the tree needs to be removed rather than trimmed. He understands that the new stop sign requires a thirty foot sight distance in each direction. The tree removal will cost between \$900 and \$1,000. He previously spoke with Manager Rodgers and was told that the property owner is responsible for trimming or removing the tree but he would like to ask if the Township or J.A. Myers can assist with the cost in any way. He also shared some concerns regarding construction vehicles using his driveway and flags marking the gas line in his yard; however, these concerns are not related to the Township. Mr. Crumling met with someone at the Township last month and viewed the plans for the Mustang Heights subdivision. He was told at that time that he would not be losing any of his property which concerned him because he would like to repave his driveway. Manager Rodgers confirmed that the Township is not presently widening the road in front of his property. Commissioner Klunk advised Mr. Crumling that the right-of-way most likely extends several feet into his front yard and advised that he contact a surveyor to locate his property line prior to doing any work on the driveway. Commissioner Felix stated

that it has always been the policy that any blockage of clear sight triangle is the responsibility of the property owner. Mr. Crumling asked if the Township could make Mr. Myers pay for the tree removal. Commissioner Felix said that we can't ask Mr. Myers to do anything off of his own property. He also pointed out that the street has been used by South Western students trying to avoid the stop light for many years and the stop sign is needed for that as well as the new subdivision.

Commissioner Brown sympathized with Mr. Crumling's frustration but said that the committee has no recourse in this situation. Commissioner Van de Castle also sympathized and recommended that he try contacting Mr. Myers himself to see if he is willing to assist with the tree removal. He pointed out that there is a tree in the Borough that needed trimmed in a similar fashion to create a clear sight triangle and it was not terribly unattractive with the bottom missing. Commissioner Heilman shared that the Township Solicitor gave the advice that we cannot enter the property to remove or trim the tree. We cannot go against the advice of our solicitor and he offered to show this opinion to Mr. Crumling if he would like to see it. Mr. Crumling thanked the committee for their time.

ST JOSEPH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 5K FUNDRAISER: Police Chief Laughlin read a letter dated February 25, 2016 from Saint Joseph Athletic Association requesting to hold their second annual 5K event on Saturday, May 14, 2016. Chief Laughlin worked with St. Joseph last year to devise a route that's safe and they are using the same route this year. The event went well last year with no problems. Commissioner Van de Castle asked if the entire run is in Penn Township. Chief Laughlin said that it is all in the Township and will run through two housing developments. St. Joseph will contact the residents in those subdivisions to let them know about the event beforehand. Chief Laughlin will send his standard letter.

CENTER STREET TRAFFIC STUDY: Police Chief Laughlin reported that a traffic study was performed on Center Street from York to Newberry. The study was completed last year but Chief Laughlin held off on sharing with the committee because of the Center Street construction. The study recommends prohibiting all commercial vehicle traffic on this roadway with the exception of school busses and trash collection. He stated that the road is beginning to show damage and they are trying to prevent any further damage. The committee recommended approval.

YORK COUNTY QUICK RESPONSE TEAM: Police Chief Laughlin reported that Officer O'Brien has requested to join the QRT. Officer Gaylord is already on the QRT so he would be the second from Penn Township. He advised the committee that Officer O'Brien has been made aware of what is required of him and what the scheduling restrictions will be. There will be no overtime and he will only be able to respond to calls on his own time or when the department is fully staffed. If they are at minimum manpower he will not be permitted to respond to QRT call outs. The department does not backfill when someone is out on a call. The QRT operates with teams and Chief Laughlin will request that Officers Gaylord and O'Brien not be on the same team so their call outs will not happen at the same time. Officer O'Brien will go through a lengthy try out and training process before becoming a part of the QRT. If at any point he washes

out of the training then he's done with the program unless he chooses to reapply another year. The committee discussed the scheduling and equipment involved in QRT and recommended that Chief Laughlin move forward with Officer O'Brien's application.

POLICE VEHICLE TRADE-INS: Manager Rodgers reported that the police department has two vehicles on order with New Holland and there are two vehicles that can be traded in. We had discussed purchasing a new vehicle for the Zoning Officer and could use one of the trade-in vehicles for him rather than purchasing a new one. One of the vehicles has a little over seventy thousand miles and is still under warranty. The warranty is good until April 30, 2019 or one hundred thousand miles. The vehicle is a 2014 Ford Explorer and is in good condition. Commissioner Felix stated that the police decals would need to be removed and the vehicle painted but that will be a minimal amount of money compared to purchasing a new vehicle. He asked if the current Zoning vehicle would be sold or if it could be traded in when the new police vehicles are purchased. Manager Rodgers will research the options and determine if selling on Muncibid or trading in would be the better option. The committee had no objections to Manager Rodgers request.

AERIAL TRUCK PURCHASE: Fire Chief Cromer reported that the committee received copies of a proposal for a new aerial truck. The proposal includes pricing for three different trucks. He did his best to get realistic numbers together concerning the purchase of a new truck and the sale of the current truck. He asked if the Board would like to move forward with the purchase of a new truck. Commissioner Felix asked when is the soonest a new truck could be delivered. Chief Cromer said late 2017 or early 2018. Commissioner Felix asked how long it would take to write the specs for a new truck and Chief Cromer said he'd need at least a couple of months.

Commissioner Felix would like to move forward with the purchase. He suggested going to local businesses in the area to see if there is any interest in making donations towards the purchase of a new aerial truck. He is not suggesting that the purchase only be made if a certain amount of contributions are received, he'd like to move forward regardless. The committee discussed how the possible merger/consolidation of fire departments would affect the purchase of a new truck. Commissioner Klunk asked if a merged group would need two new aerial trucks. Fire Chief Cromer believes that the one hundred fifteen foot articulating unit will be useful whether there is a merger or not because there are many buildings and businesses that need the articulating arm to reach top floors. Commissioner Brown expressed concern with purchasing a truck prior to knowing whether or not the merger will be moving forward. After discussion it was determined that regardless of whether or not the fire departments merge/consolidate the community needs a new aerial truck and the committee recommended moving forward with the writing of specs as well as reaching out to the community for donations once a bid is received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Hallett
Township Secretary