

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MARCH 4, 2024

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7 p.m. Present were Chairman Heiland, Commissioners Baile, Berlingo, Brown, and Elksnis. Also present were Township Manager Ledley, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Heiland announced that an executive session was held on February 19, 2024, following the Board of Commissioners meeting to consult with the solicitor to discuss personnel issues and other matters involving attorney client privilege. Additionally, he announced that there will be an executive session this evening following the Public Works Committee meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Police Chief Hettinger introduced Christopher Englebert and Jamie Englebert of Englebert Financial Advisers, Allentown, PA, who were present to provide a brief introduction of the 457 plan for the Township's public safety employees and other services they provide. Ms. Englebert reported that they conduct seminars and manage 457 Plans, Defined Benefit Pension Plans, DROP programs, 401A Plans, and RFP Referee services. Ms. Englebert discussed the potential addition of the Manager as a trustee. Mr. Englebert reported that they offer a service called RFP Referee, wherein they write, distribute, and oversee RFPs for advisory firms for Defined Pension Benefit Plans, suggesting that this should be done every five to six years. The Committee expressed gratitude to the Engleberts for their time.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the February 5, 2024, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

ST. JOSEPH'S 5K RACE: The Committee received a request in February, from St. Joseph Parish, to conduct their annual 5k fundraiser event on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Police Chief Hettinger reported that the request is the same as in previous years' and has encountered no issues. The Committee recommended that Chief Hettinger send his standard letter in response.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE FIREFIGHTERS: Civil Services President Jeff Spielman reviewed the revisions of the Rules and Regulations for the Firefighters. He stated that the most significant change is the implementation of CPAT testing, a national testing network that provides the Candidate Physical Abilities Test according to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) standards. Fire Chief Clouser reported that they also eliminated the Pennsylvania Driver's License as a hiring requirement. He mentioned that being so close to the Maryland line limited the pool of potential candidates. Chairman Heiland requested that the subject be added to the

Board Agenda. Chief Clouser provided that they have received 21 applications as of the deadline last week.

RECENT ISO RATING FOR HANOVER FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION: Fire Chief Clouser reported that he has received the ISO rating and has forwarded it to the Penn Township and Hanover Borough managers. The first rating for Hanover Area Fire and Rescue Commission was received in 2018 at a score of 70.77, placing them at a rating of 3-3X. This year, the rating increased to a rating of 77.55, which is 2-2.5 points shy of lowering the ISO rating to a 2. A lower rating results in better insurance rates for residents and businesses. The increase was largely attributed to improvements in the Water Department and 911 Centers. However, the fire department's score did not increase significantly due to a lack of personnel. Chief Clouser mentioned that he will be questioning a few of the changes in the scores.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported that the Finance Committee is reviewing payroll providers for when the firefighters are brought on board. The Commission met with Brown Plus, an Accounting & Advisory Firm.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Waltman submitted his report for February. He also made a special mention that he and Commissioner Elksnis attended the General Elected Officials Emergency Management Seminar.

OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary