

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 3, 2020

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via an online meeting. Present were Chairman Brown and Commissioners Cromer, Elksnis, Heiland and Van de Castle. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, WWTP Superintendent Mahone, Public Works Supervisor Ortman, Zoning Officer Smith, MS4 Stormwater Coordinator Hirt, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Brown announced that there was an executive session held following the Board of Commissioners Meeting on July 20, 2020.

Commissioner Heiland read the Summary of the Public Meeting Guidelines.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the July 6, 2020 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None.

FIREWORKS COMPLAINTS: Police Chief Hettinger reported that the department has received numerous complaints regarding the use of fireworks. He reported that in order to issue a citation, they must have a neighbor testify, or catch the perpetrator in the act, which has been difficult. Commissioner Brown reported that the committee, along with Manager Rodgers are working on a draft ordinance regulating the use of fireworks. Commissioner Van de Castle suggested having a time limit for fireworks. Fire Chief Clouser reported he has sent letters to the senators and house representatives urging them to consider to allow all municipalities to have the option to draft an ordinance prohibiting fireworks. Commissioner Brown is not in favor of prohibiting, just would like to regulate the use of fireworks. Manager Rodgers reported that the advice from the solicitor is that the township can restrict the hours of use, but not prohibit the use.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Police Chief Hettinger reported that the National Night Out organization has requested a change of date for the event this year to October 6th. Chief Hettinger added that due to the restrictions in place for COVID-19, there is no safe way to hold the event in the Target parking lot as in years past. They are planning for the old tradition of the porch lights and officers going through the neighborhoods and meeting the residents.

HALLOWEEN PARADE: Police Chief Hettinger reported that the Hanover Jaycees will be meeting on Thursday, August 6th, to decide the fate of the annual Halloween parade. Chief Hettinger reported that he expressed his concern of not being able to hold the event safely and the Jaycees will contact him on Friday with the decision as to if the parade would be held this year.

Chairman Brown asked the committee if they would consider setting the date for trick-or-treat, or if it should even be held this year. Commissioner Heiland requested that safety precautions be promoted to the public. The committee recommended to set the date with the traditional Tuesday before Halloween, which is October 27, 2020.

YMCA HANOVER HALF-MARATHON: Police Chief Hettinger reported he received a letter from the Hanover YMCA dated July 14, 2020, requesting to hold a half marathon on Saturday, October 3, 2020. Chief Hettinger reported that they are addressing the current distancing restrictions and have not have had issues in the past with this event. Police Chief Hettinger will send them a letter.

ACCREDITATION/GENERAL ORDER REVIEWS: Police Chief Hettinger reported that with the current events nationally with defund the police, he wanted to review the department's accreditation status with the committee. Being an accredited department through the Pennsylvania's Chiefs of Police, means this department strives to meet a higher level of standards. Whenever there is a general change of command, the new chief reviews the general order, and is to write a letter with dates of origination, and review along with a signature on each order, confirming they have been recently reviewed. He is currently working on this task, and hoping to have completed in the next few months. Commissioner Van de Castle requested an update on the status of the body cameras. Chief Hettinger replied the cameras have been ordered and there is a six-week turn around, and he drafted a policy that coincides with the dashboard cameras, and has turned in to Manager Rodgers for review by the solicitor.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported he did not have any updates for the committee and the last commission meeting was canceled due to lack of pressing issues. Chief Clouser reported he expected to have the draft agreement from the volunteers but has yet to receive. The volunteers are meeting this evening and will discuss with their attorney. Chief Clouser would like for the commission's attorney to review before discussing with the commission.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Jeff Waltman presented his report for July.

OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Brown informed the committee that the board has received an application for the Planning Commission, and there are two seats to be filled.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney
Township Secretary