

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Brown and Commissioners Black, Elksnis, and Heiland. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, WWTP Superintendent Mahone, and Township Secretary Sweeney. Commissioner Cromer and Zoning Officer Smith were absent with notice. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Brown announced there was an executive session held following the August 16, 2021, Board of Commissioners Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues, he further announced there would be an executive session held following the Health & Sanitation Committee meeting this evening.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the August 2, 2021, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

CO-RESPONDER COOPERATION AGREEMENT: Police Chief Hettinger reported York County has offered a block grant through federal and county funding to provide a Co-responder, a mental health professional. This program is at no cost to the Township, and the Police Department has the office space available. The Co-responder will be shared with several municipalities; Penn Township, Hanover Borough, and West Manheim. Chief Hettinger stated that the officers will be the first on site, and will contact the co-responder for those who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. The Co-responder will then connect the person(s) with the resources and help they need. Chief Hettinger stated that Sharon Harlacher, York County Human Services, offered to give a detailed presentation on the program and the Committee suggested for her to attend the October Public Safety Committee meeting to do so.

DRUG TAKE-BACK BOX MONITORING EQUIPMENT EVALUATION: Police Chief Hettinger reported Rite Aid has provided a new, larger drug take back box. The company that offers the box, reached out and requested the department to test and evaluate an electronic monitoring system for the box. The monitoring system is used to alert when the box is at a certain capacity and/or weight. He said our detectives do a great job monitoring the box on a regular basis. The department has one year of free service, after a year, an evaluation will be completed and if it is of value, and if the department would like to keep the monitoring system a fee will be incurred.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN: Manager Rodgers reported Mr. Waltman presented the Emergency Management Plan for review. This plan is for both Penn Township and Hanover Borough. If approved, the Township would need to adopt by

resolution. Manager Rodgers will forward the plan to the Fire Commission Solicitor for review.

2022 YORK COUNTY SPCA CONTRACT: Manager Rodgers reported she received the annual SPCA contract, and there has been no changes and the cost is the same as last year. The committee recommended approving the agreement.

EMS BUDGET SHORTFALL UPDATE: Fire Chief Clouser reported that after last meetings power point budget presentation, he met with the Fire Commission Treasurer, who neglected to add the money from PTVES that was owed to the Commission as a carryover item from last year, this reduces the overall budget shortfall to \$88,000. Manager Rodgers asked what the provisions were to allow that the amount be changed since the approval of the budget. Chief Clouser will have to check with the Commission Solicitor. Commissioner Heiland stated this is the current shortfall but does not affect the long-term shortfall concern. Chief Clouser also reported the EMS Captain reviewed the analysis of the cost per call equation, and will forward the paperwork to Manager Rodgers showing the formula used to calculate.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported they discussed the commitments of both municipalities and the future of the Commission as well as the contract negotiations of the two sets of firefighters. In response to that discussion, Hanover Borough has set an invitation to discuss a third-party evaluation of the Commission to determine what is needed. They feel the evaluation completed by DCED is unacceptable, and are requesting an outside review of how to handle the Commission. Commissioner Brown asked who is going to pay for this, how long will this last and why is this necessary. Chief Clouser said the Commission will pay for it, he could not provide an answer as to how much, how long and why is it necessary. Commissioner Brown stated that at the last Commission meeting the President stated that the evaluation should be conducted internally, and asked Chief Clouser why would that not be sufficient. Chief Clouser stated he believes it should be; that the Commission which includes representatives from both municipalities should decide the vision for its future.

EMA UPDATE: EMA Coordinator Waltman reviewed his August report. Mr. Waltman added that we were very fortunate there was not more damage with the amount of precipitation that fell as a result of Hurricane Ida. He added there were many reported wet basements, but no structural damage, and several streets were closed due to the flooding.

OTHER MATTERS: Police Chief Hettinger thanked the Public Works Department for their work staging the barricades on the flooded streets.

Police Chief Hettinger reported that there are rumors and postings on social media regarding the Southwestern School District Board Meeting and the mask mandate. Chief Hettinger has been in contact with the school and will have an officer present at the meeting.

Police Chief Hettinger reported that the YMCA has their half marathon coming up, and with the Karen Lane Bridge being closed, the marathon had to be rerouted down Barnhart Drive. On the weekend there is truck parking on both sides of the road, making it difficult for both runners and vehicle traffic to get through. The YMCA requested if one side of the road could be marked "no parking" during the marathon. The committee requested the notification be made as soon as possible.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary