

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 6, 2021

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Brown and Commissioners Black, Cromer, Elksnis, and Heiland. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Brown announced there was an executive session held following the November 15, 2021, Board of Commissioners Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the November 1, 2021, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported at the last Fire Commission meeting, the Fire Commission Finance Committee assumed the duties of Treasurer. Steve Otis has been reviewing profit and loss estimates and the figures show that the EMS will end the year with a \$40,000 deficit, which is better than expected. They composed the first draft of the job description for the Business Manager position. They are still working out the insurance coverage and pensions for the Fire Chief and the Executive Secretary to move over to the Fire Commission. Chief Clouser reported that he has been working on a FEMA Grant for a sprinkler system for the Clearview and Wirt Park fire stations. Chief Clouser updated the Committee on the status of the Hospital. As of last week, they were at capacity and the staff is overwhelmed. They are still working with area ambulance services and the Hospital to come to some sort of agreement on how to handle EMS patients that are being brought in. Chairman Brown stated he was under the impression that there was a meeting with the hospital and other area ambulance services. Chief Clouser reported that there was, and they are working on a proposal for when a patient is brought in, a nurse will assess whether they need to stay in the ER or be fast tracked to the triage area. Then EMS can release the patient to the hospital. Chairman Brown stated that this has been occurring for years and is not just related to COVID. Chief Clouser reported that the Fire Commission is ready to take Santa throughout the Township this weekend, and they are going to put the sound system on the ladder truck to play Christmas music.

REVIEW OF FIRE DEPARTMENT OVERTIME COSTS IN 2021: Chairman Brown reported the Fire Department overtime is astronomical. He is aware there are two firemen out on disability and he wondered if it would be more beneficial to hire one or two more fireman to reduce the overtime. Chief Clouser stated he liked the idea of hiring more firemen. Chairman Brown asked the timeline. Chief Clouser stated they

are currently accepting applications until December 31, 2021, and this is a joint venture with Hanover Borough. A list will be compiled, then approved through the Civil Service Commission, and testing should occur in January. They would be ready to hire sometime in February or March. If the candidate would need to attend the academy, it would be approximately fourteen more weeks. Commissioner Cromer stated that other municipalities hire part time, we would have to look into what is stated in the contract. Chief Clouser stated that there have been a few recent occasions where overtime has had to be mandated.

EMA UPDATE: EMA Coordinator Waltman reviewed his November report. EMA Waltman added he will be submitting a proposal with the local Managers, Police, and Public Works to bolster the use of barricades along the streets during parades and events. EMA Waltman reported that the COVID-19 cases are very high in Hanover, and the latest COVID version is much more viral, and urged vaccinations and use of caution.

OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: Mr. Karl Maynor, 134 Moore Drive, requested to address the Committee regarding his shed that is on Township property. The Committee advised Mr. Maynor that he wait and speak at the Public Works meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,  
Township Secretary