

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 4, 2023

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Elksnis, Commissioners Berlingo, Black, and Brown, Commissioner Heiland was present via cell phone. Also present were Manager Ledley, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Elksnis announced there was an executive session held following the November 20, 2023, Penn Township Board of Commissioners Meeting to discuss personnel and consult with the solicitor on legal matters. He further announced there was an executive session held prior to the Public Safety Committee meeting this evening to discuss personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the November 6, 2023, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Mr. Joe Martz, residing at 565 Bankert Drive, attended the meeting to voice his concerns regarding a neighbor's extensive shooting activities, with approximately 500 rounds fired on weekends. Mr. Martz has contacted the police department on numerous occasions and officers have examined the shooting backdrop and determined it to be insufficiently safe for the level of activity, no action can be taken because no specific criminal actions have occurred. The resident has been warned of potential liability if injuries occur. Mr. Martz presented maps of the properties. Codorus State Park Ranger Tierney reported instances of hikers hearing bullets whizzing by. Police Chief Hettinger confirmed that the area has been inspected several times and complies with existing ordinances. However, he stressed that spent cartridges must remain within the property boundaries, and the resident has been duly informed. Mr. Martz urged an update to the ordinance to address backdrop requirements. He highlighted that the property's hillside location allows stray bullets to extend beyond the backdrop. State Park Ranger Tierney noted tree damage with holes and, using metal detectors, verified their presence. Police Chief Hettinger proposed amending the ordinance to specifically regulate shooting activities on private property, ensuring backdrops are constructed properly to prevent bullets from escaping.

Chairman Elksnis asked for patience as the committee consults with the council. The matter will be added to the Public Safety Committee meeting agenda for January, and residents are encouraged to attend.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported that there was an executive session to discuss personnel issues. The Fire Commission Board subsequently voted to grant the EMS Coordinator a pay increase.

In the 2023 capital budget, Chief Clouser included the cost of installing sidewalks at the Clover Lane Fire Station. The developer, J.A. Myer, is handling the installation of the sidewalk as it was part of the Land Development Plan. Consequently, the funds were not expended from Chief Clouser's budget.

He reported programming issues that led to the October Fire Commission Report not being published; however, he plans to include it with November's report for the December Board meeting.

The water restrictions issued by the Borough of Hanover Water Department were briefly discussed, and memos were subsequently sent to both career staff and volunteers.

Chief Clouser informed the board that the Fire Commission would be escorting Santa throughout the township over the weekend, with the Penn Township Police Department providing the escort. Additionally, he mentioned that fire department volunteers would walk along the route, distributing candy canes.

CONSIDER A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR A POST EMPLOYMENT HEALTH PLAN FOR FIREFIGHTERS: Chairman Elksnis reported that this was an issue that was discussed during the last contract negotiations, and an agreement has been reached. The committee recommends approving the agreement.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Waltman submitted his November report. He pointed out that he is researching organizing a Code Blue Winter Weather program.

OTHER MATTERS: Police Chief Hettinger reported that Officer Connor Perone is set to complete his probationary status on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Fire Chief Clouser reported that they have made a conditional offer for a firefighter position. The candidate will enter the academy on January 29, 2024.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,  
Township Secretary