

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
February 3, 2025

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 7:00pm. Present were Chairman Heiland, Commissioners Baile, Elksnis, Arnold, and Fanelli. Also present were Police Chief Merwede, Fire Chief Clousher, Township Engineer Eric Bortner, Zoning Officer LeFevre, Township Manager Sweeney, and Secretary Laura Klinefelter. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Heiland announced there was an executive session held on Monday, January 20, 2025, following the Board of Commissioners meeting regarding personnel matters. There will also be an executive session this evening following the Public Works meeting to discuss personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the January 6, 2025, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

DISCUSS THE MULTIPLE SYSTEM ATROPHY 5K: Chief Merwede received a letter from Ashley Sprinkle regarding a 5K event that will start on Center Street. Commissioner Heiland asked EMA Director Jeff Waltman his thoughts on the safety for the event. He said his concern is the traffic which he has discussed with Chief Merwede. Chief Merwede will send his standard letter.

DISCUSS THE 2025 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Chief Merwede received a letter regarding the Memorial Day Parade that will be held on May 26, 2025. Chief Merwede said there are no issues with the parade. The Committee recommended approving the request.

DISCUSS LIEUTENANT AND SERGEANT PROMOTIONS: Travis Shearer tested for Lieutenant and passed his exams. He will be considered for promotion to Lieutenant at the February Board of Commissioners meeting. Travis Berwager is next on the certified list for Sergeant to be promoted and will also be voted on at the February Board of Commissioners meeting.

DISCUSS RELOCATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WEIGHT ROOM: Chief Merwede discussed the possibility of moving the police weight room near the DJ office. Since they are no longer expanding the women's locker room, they do not need to move the weight room from its current location.

FIRE COMMISSION MEETING REVIEW: Fire Chief Clouser said the Commission reviewed the 2024 Budget Vs Actual. EMS for 2024 came in at a \$12,000 budget surplus. The 2024 Fire budget came in at \$100,000 under budget. The building committee met with Lowes regarding the Hero Project they are working on for the EMS bunk room. The next project they are looking to do is add a bathroom upstairs and are working on getting a price for the project.

EMA UPDATE: No updates to submitted report.

DISCUSS BREEZEWOOD DRIVE ADDRESS ISSUES: Jeff Waltman reviewed the Breezewood Drive address issue with the Commissioners. Township staff met with Jeff on January 29, 2025, to review options to alleviate the issue. Breezewood Drive splits off into two roads and the street numbers go back and forth on the two roads. This makes it difficult for first responders to find the correct house in an emergency. A potential resolution is to rename the section of Breezewood Drive that only has 8 houses on it. The Commissioners discussed different naming ideas to make the change easier for the residents. Commissioner Elksnis discussed the changes the residents will have to make if their addresses are changed. Commissioner Heiland recommended holding off on a resolution for a month and sending a letter to the residents who will be affected to allow them to be involved in the process.

OTHER MATTERS: Chief Clouser introduced William McKee to the board who is starting as a firefighter.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: James Young, 15 Magnolia Lane asked how the Breezewood Drive address issue was allowed to happen during the planning stages. James also discussed the issues he was having with the Township Website and the difficulty of navigating it. Commissioner Heiland said the Township will be implementing a new website in the next few months that will be user friendly.

Shelley Colehouse Mayhew, 18 Magnolia Lane discussed a potentially dangerous tree on Grandview Road. She showed pictures of the tree that is currently leaning at a 30-degree angle. Shelley discussed the potential issues this tree could cause if it fell on the roadway. Resident James Young, 15 Magnolia Lane also voiced his concern about the tree. The resident that owns the property has been cited twice by the Township for this tree. Commissioner Heiland discussed the tree and the steps the Township is allowed to take to remedy the situation. Commissioner Elksnis explained that the Township is not allowed to just go on private property and cut down the tree. The Township is going to see how the citation is handled at the Magistrates office and will decide the next steps than. The Township will also check with the Solicitor to ensure

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Klinefelter
Township Secretary