

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 5, 2024

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6 p.m. Present were Chairman Heiland, Commissioners Baile, Berlingo, Brown, and Elksnis. Also present were Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, Superintendent Lank and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Heiland announced that an executive session was held on July 19, 2024, following the Board of Commissioners meeting to consult with the solicitor to discuss personnel issues and other matters involving attorney client privilege. Additionally, he announced National Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 6, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Emory H. Markle Middle School, and further there will be an executive session held this evening following the Health & Sanitation Committee meeting to discuss personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the July 1, 2024, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

BEAVER CREEK ROAD AT BROADWAY: Police Chief Hettinger reported recently there was a fatal accident on Broadway at Beaver Creek. The accident was attributed to driver error, not a roadway deficiency. However, concerns were raised about the safety of the intersection, especially regarding the left turn from Beaver Creek onto Broadway, where speeding is an issue. The possibility of prohibiting left turns at the intersection is being explored, which would reroute traffic down Oak Hill Drive. Another suggestion involved placing a mirror on a telephone pole to improve visibility for drivers, but its effectiveness is doubtful, and approval is required to install it. The township is awaiting traffic study results to determine the best course of action.

Mrs. Dana Valdes-Dapena, a resident on Broadway, who lives near the intersection, expressed concerns about the safety of the area, advocating for closing the intersection to left turns or improving signage. She spoke about frequent high speeds on Broadway and suggested that improved signage could help mitigate the risks. Chief Hettinger acknowledged her concerns and confirmed that a traffic study is underway, which is the first step in determining any potential changes to the intersection.

POLICE SERGEANT PROMOTION TEST: Police Chief Hettinger reported that nine applicants have met the requirements and signed up for the sergeant's promotional test. Study guides have been received and will be distributed to the candidates starting tomorrow. The test is tentatively scheduled for October 28th, and arrangements are being made to secure a location that can accommodate the nine candidates and a proctor.

UPDATE ON THE TOWNSHIP INTERNET/TELEPHONE SYSTEM: Police Chief Hettinger reported that fiber has been installed at the municipal buildings, although it has not yet been connected. The switch to a fiber internet connection will happen soon. The telephone system has been fully transitioned from Brightspeed Communication to Comcast, now offering caller ID and eliminating the need to dial a code for long-distance calls. There were two minor issues with the transition, including an alarm system concern, but these are being or have been addressed.

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HAWK HUSTLE: Police Chief Hettinger reported the Hanover Athletic Booster Club has requested to hold their 15th annual Hawk Hustle on November 9th, using the same course and location as in previous years. There have been no issues in the past, and there were no objections from the committee.

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND TRICK OR TREAT: Police Chief Hettinger reported that while we have not received an official request, the Hanover Jaycees have set the date for the annual Halloween Parade for Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. He requested the board to set the date for trick-or-treat for the Tuesday before the parade, which would be October 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. The committee recommended setting the date.

VACANT FIREFIGHTER POSITION: Fire Chief Clouser reported the position of Firefighter is still open. A list of candidates has been prepared by the Civil Service Commission, and approval from the committee is being sought to make a conditional offer to one of the candidates. There were no objections, and recommended Chief to move forward with the hiring process.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Fire Chief Clouser reported the Fire Commission reviewed and approved the job description for the EMS Supervisor position, which has been advertised, and applications are being received. Additionally, Chief Clouser reminded everyone of the volunteer company's chicken barbecue on August 17th, with tickets now available for purchase. The Chief also mentioned that a temporary solution for the EMT position for the ambulance is being worked on but has not yet been presented to the Commission. Lastly, Chief Clouser addressed an interview with the York Daily Record, indicating that he is waiting to see how it will be reported.

EMA UPDATE: Emergency Management Coordinator Waltman submitted his July report, highlighting the impact of the July 18th storm. Penn Township experienced some minor damage issues, but no structural damage was reported, unlike in the borough where several buildings were damaged, with one incurring over \$100,000 in damage. The storm, characterized by violent downdrafts and downbursts, moved from west to east, with some areas, including parts of York, being hit hard. Coordinator Waltman stated he relies on reports from law enforcement, 911 dispatches, residents, and his own observations for damage assessments.

He also provided an update on Tropical Storm Debbie, which could impact the area on Saturday evening, according to the National Weather Service. Lastly, a planned 5K run and celebratory event on Ridge Avenue has been modified; the 5K run has been canceled due to permit issues, but the event itself will still take place.

OTHER MATTERS: Police Chief Hettinger reported he is working with the solicitor on developing an ordinance or code related to ranges. The process is ongoing and hasn't been forgotten. They are using the Stowe Township code, which was upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, as a template. Chief Hettinger is coordinating with the solicitor to adapt this framework to fit the township's needs.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,  
Township Secretary