

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 6, 2025

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, October 2, 2025, at 6:00pm. Chairman Heiland and Commissioners Baile, Elksnis, Arnold, and Fanelli, were present. Also, present were Police Chief Merwede, Fire Chief Clousher, Deputy Fire Chief Wysocki, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer LeFevre, EMA Coordinator Jeff Waltman, Township Manager Sweeney, and Assistant Township Manager Klinefelter. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Heiland announced there was an executive session held on Monday September 15, 2025, following the Board of Commissioners meeting to discuss personnel matters. There will also be an executive session this evening following the Public Works Committee meeting to discuss personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the September 2, 2025, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none

DISCUSS NO PARKING ZONE ON BRAGG CIRCLE: Chief Merwede discussed the no parking sign that is currently located on Bragg Circle near the pump station. It is currently not enforceable due to no ordinance being passed. It was confirmed that no traffic study is needed for this.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: The fire commission reviewed the initial draft of the budget. The new firefighter in the academy is doing well and is set to graduate on November 17th. He is also taking EMT classes.

EMA UPDATE: EMA Coordinator Waltman submitted a report for review. He discussed a PEMA training class he attended.

DISCUSS THE 2026 YCSPCA AGREEMENT: Manager Sweeney discussed the agreement that was received for 2026. The increase for 2026 was 12.6%. This fee is based on the population and potentially will continue to increase each year. There was discussion about having a representative from the SPCA come to a 2026 Committee meeting to discuss the cost and the program.

DISCUSS PROCLAMATION FOR KINDESS WEEK WOLRDWIDE: Manager Sweeney discussed the proclamation. Kevin Smith is the founder of the program, and they are promoting a movie that will air at the Appell Center in York in November. November 8-15, 2025, is kindness week and they are looking for all Municipalities in York County to participate. This brings attention to the community to be kind.

DISCUSS FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE: Assistant Township Manager reviewed the food truck ordinance draft. She discussed the definitions in the ordinance being different than the definitions in another Ordinance that is geared towards the Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance has been discussed for a year and will allow food trucks to be permitted in the Township.

DISCUSS 2026 POLICE BUDGET: There is a proposal for 5 new officers. Population has increased but the force has not. The first officer would make the 4 man platoon be 5 to even the platoons. They are proposing one to be a detective. A commercial vehicle inspector. This additional officer will help with safety concerns due to brakes not working in overloading trailers. A community officer who will handle court hearings and fill in on the street. A Drug enforcement officer due to little to none drug enforcement because of manpower. There are two cars in the budget.

DISCUSS 2026 FIRE BUDGET: There are no additional firefighter positions being proposed for the budget. The proposed budget is showing a 10% increase in payroll. Total budget increase of 6.25% for 2026. The Fire Commission budget is proposing a 51% increase. There was a discussion regarding the workers compensation insurance and if the Fire Department has shopped around. Chief Clouser said there are not a lot of insurance companies who cover volunteer firefighters.

OTHER MATTERS: Chief Merwede thanks everybody for reaching out after the tragic event that happened a few weeks ago. No Shave November is not being continued, but the Police Department is looking to do Shop with a Cop.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Klinefelter
Township Secretary