

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2026

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 7:12pm. Chairman Heiland and Commissioners Baile, Elksnis, Rice, and Arnold, were present. Also, present were Police Chief Merwede, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer LeFevre, 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, January 19, 2026, 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 January 5, 2026, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: *Robert Holt, PO BOX 1131, Hanover:* Mr. Holt said he agrees with having the Ordinance for the Fire Department to be able to bill insurance. He asked if the insurance company does not pay, who will?

DISCUSS SGT. BERWAGERS'S PROBATIONARY STATUS: Chief Merwede said officer Berwager was promoted to Sergeant on February 17, 2025, He is doing very well and recommends him to be moved from probationary to regular status.

DISCUSS THE REQUEST TO HOLD THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON MAY 25, 2026: Chief Merwede received a request dated January 20, 2026, from the Hanover Allied Veterans to conduct the Annual Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2026. This will be on the Board of Commissioners meeting for approval.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Chief Clouser reviewed the 2026 Fire Commission Board Members and committee appointments. The chairman is Tom Allison, and the Vice-Chair is Mark Elksnis. The members representing Penn Township are Mark Elksnis, Justin Heiland, and Matthew Baile as alternate. Deputy Chief Wysocki said Chief 360 is currently working on revamping the website for the Fire Department. The new engine is going into production at the end of January. Chief Clouser reviewed members of the Fire Department who received awards. All minutes for the Fire Commission meetings are now posted on the Township and Borough websites.

DISCUSS LOWERING THE CIVIL SERVICE AGE REQUIREMENT FOR FIREFIGHTERS: Deputy Chief Wysocki discussed the age requirement. The current minimum age requirement is 21 years old, and they are looking to reduce it to 18 years old. For the last application period the department only received 13 candidate applications, which is dramatically low from prior years. The goal is if the minimum age requirement is reduced, this will allow more people to apply.

DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING HANOVER AREA FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION TO BILL INSURANCE FOR FIRE SERVICES: Deputy Chief Wysocki reviewed the draft ordinance with the Committee. The ordinance will allow the Fire Department to bill the insurance after a fire or motor vehicle accident to try and absorb the expenses. No bill will go to the residents. The billing to the insurance will be handled by a third-party billing company. The Fire Commission is currently reviewing the fees and once they approve, the Township will amend their Fee Schedule Ordinance to include those fees.

EMA UPDATE: EMA Coordinator Waltman submitted a report to the committee.

OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Klinefelter, Township Secretary