

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MARCH 2, 2026

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 7:00pm. Chairman Heiland and Commissioners Baile, Elksnis, Rice, and Arnold, were present. Also, present were Police Chief Merwede, Fire Chief Clouser, EMA Coordinator Jeff Waltman, 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, February 16, 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. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 21st at 10:00am for Penn Township residents 10 and under. This annual event is held at the Penn Township Community Park.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the February 2, 2026, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: *There were none*

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR APRIL SHREDDING EVENT: Chief Merwede said he has items that need to be shredded at the police department. Committee said to give a list of the items to the manager, and it will be added to the Resolution.

DISCUSS POTENTIAL CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE HANOVER AREA FIRE & RESCUE COMMISSION: Mr. Rob Brady of Rob Consulting presented his qualifications and approach to assisting the Hanover Area Fire & Rescue Commission. Mr. Brady has experience in public safety and municipal government consulting, specializing in mergers, consolidations, and strategic planning.

Mr. Brady suggested a targeted approach rather than a costly, full assessment. He recommended the commission identify and prioritize its main challenges—such as finalizing the intergovernmental agreement, securing a firefighter contract, and planning for regional expansion—and address them one by one. He emphasized that his role would be to facilitate and provide expertise to a small, nimble working group composed of representatives from the Township and the Borough. Commissioners discussed the importance of rebuilding trust with the firefighters to achieve a joint contract before the current one expires in 2027. Mr. Brady stressed that clear communication, compromise, and follow-through on promises would be essential to moving forward successfully.

REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING: Chief Clouser provided a summary of the February 19th Fire Commission meeting. Revenue is trending 11.9% over budget, and expenses are 6.1% over budget, primarily due to large annual payments for insurance and equipment contracts made at the beginning of the year. EMS-specific revenue is 4.3% over budget. Commissioner Elksnis was added as a third signatory for the Fire Commission's accounts. The new engine is scheduled for production this month, with an expected delivery in June or July. The new website is approximately two months from launch. The Relief Association approved over \$41,900 to replace all rope rescue equipment and hardware and will also purchase new hoses for the new engine. The recent fire on Spencer Drive was caused by a faulty battery in an e-bike that was left charging in the garage. There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. To promote transparency, the finance/personnel and building/apparatus committee meetings will now be held in the evening and are open to the public.

DISCUSS THE HAFR INSURANCE BILLING ORDINANCE AND FEES: The committee discussed the proposed ordinance that would allow the fire department to bill for consumable materials used during incidents. The Borough has passed its version of the ordinance. After confirming the Township's solicitor was content with the proposed text, the committee agreed to move the ordinance to the full Board of Commissioners agenda for approval.

EMA UPDATE: EMA Coordinator Waltman submitted a report to the committee. A partnership was granted with the Community Aid foundation, which provides "care cards" to residents in need. These cards were distributed to the 13 individuals displaced by the Spencer Drive fire. A final walkthrough of St. Joseph School was conducted with York County OEM to establish it as a county-run, short-term overnight shelter. A similar walkthrough is planned for St. Vincent de Paul Church.

OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Klinefelter, Township Secretary