

**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 6, 2026**

The Penn Township Public Safety Committee convened on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 7:00pm. Chairman Heiland and Commissioners Baile, Elksnis, Rice, and Arnold were present. Also present were Police Chief Merwede, Fire Chief Clousher, 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, March 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.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the March 2, 2026, Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

There were none.

**DISCUSS THE SWSD EDUCATION FOUNDATION 5K:**

Chief Merwede reported that in March the department received a request from the Southwestern School District to hold their annual Education Foundation 5K on May 9th. The event will require closing a portion of Oakland Road from approximately 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Chief Merwede noted this event has been held for many years without incident and requested permission to proceed. The committee had no objections and directed Chief Merwede to send his standard letter granting permission.

**DISCUSS CONSORTIUM TESTING AND HIRING:**

Chief Merwede reported that approximately 54 candidates took the written exam on March 7th and March 14th. Candidates who passed the written exam advanced to the oral exam. In the end, 27 candidates were placed on the eligibility list. The list was certified on Friday, April 3rd, and background investigations have commenced. The department is planning to hire one officer. It was noted this was the largest candidate turnout the department has seen in many years.

**DISCUSS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT:**

Chief Merwede provided an update on National Night Out, which is scheduled for August 4th at the school complex. The event will be held from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Chief Merwede anticipates closing Bowman Road in front of the middle school from approximately 4:30 PM until approximately 8:30 PM, consistent with previous events. There will be no rain date this year. All committee members were invited to attend.

**REVIEW OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING:**

Chief Clousher presented an update from the Fire Commission meeting. Under the Treasurer's Report, revenue is approximately 7.4% above budget and expenses are approximately 5.4% over budget. The overage in expenses is attributable to the capital lease payment, employee benefits, and the AED service contract, all of which are paid in January and are single annual payments that skew those line items early in the year. On the EMS side, revenue is approximately 4.7% above budget and expenses are 2.3% over budget, with the overage again related to annual insurance payments.

Under Facilities and Apparatus, the Commission was made aware of a potential mold issue on the second floor of the Wirt Park Fire Station. The deputy and Captain Amspacher conducted an inspection and found two ceiling tiles with water staining and debris growth, not mold. Only the affected tiles were replaced. A full ceiling tile replacement will not be necessary. Additionally, three mattresses and bed frames at Clearview Station were replaced as approved by the board last month.

#### **CIVIL SERVICE TESTING UPDATE:**

Chief Clousher reported that the written civil service test was administered to candidates. Of the 13 who signed up, 10 appeared for the exam. Nine of those ten will be advancing to the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT), which is a nationally recognized physical agility testing format.

#### **OPERATIONAL DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Chief Clousher provided the following operational updates:

The new engine, which will be designated Engine 79-3, is expected to be delivered in June or July.

The department has acquired new inch-and-a-half diameter fire hose. Captain Boyce identified a brand that can flow nearly the same volume as the current two-inch hose at approximately half the weight, reducing strain on firefighters. The previous inch-and-a-half hose flowed 95 gallons per minute; the new hose flows 150 gallons per minute using newer synthetic lining technology.

A public safety announcement (PSA) was created for the department's Facebook page and future website, urging residents to evacuate immediately if a fire grows larger than a trash can and to stay out.

Personnel attended two career days at the Hanover Public School District and one at the Southwestern School District, where fire and EMS staff spoke to students about their careers.

The annual apparatus refurbishment and repair is scheduled for May 27th.

In March, all volunteers and career staff completed their HAZMAT operations certification refreshers. The department also conducted its "All You Need to Ride" training day, which covers bloodborne pathogens, incident management and accountability, SOP review, and SCBA face piece seal testing.

The department is preparing to launch Red Cross first aid, CPR, and AED training for Township employees, in coordination with Township Manager Sweeney. This is in response to the police department's CPR instructor retiring from instructing.

Chief Clousher reported that he received complaints from firefighters regarding the condition of a building on Blattner Avenue, formerly occupied and still owned by Cintas. Potential structural

issues and other concerns at the front of the building were identified. Chief Clousher, the deputy, and the assistant manager are scheduled to meet with a Cintas representative the following day to inspect the interior. Fire code violations and property maintenance code violations have already been identified, and additional violations are anticipated.

**EMA UPDATE:**

EMA Coordinator Waltman reported the following: On March 16th, a windstorm was forecast and the Penn Township Emergency Operations Center was activated with communications established through York County via radio and WebEOC. Fortunately, no damages were reported. There were no major fires or hazmat incidents for the month.

York County will hold its spring all-hazards exercise on April 14th from 9:00 AM to noon. Township staff are welcome to register and participate. Mr. Waltman will also be assisting at a local healthcare facility tabletop exercise on April 27th.

Mr. Waltman reported that a Red Cross representative inquired about the possibility of conducting a smoke detector distribution program in the Hanover area for residents in need. Funding would be limited. Mr. Waltman indicated he will look into the matter further, as there are likely families who could benefit from a free smoke detector.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

There were none.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS TO COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Klinefelter, Township Secretary