



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
February 8th, 2017
7:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to order: Chairperson C. Whitney called the meeting to order.

Attendance:

- **Committee members present:** Chairperson C. Whitney, Councilor K. Farrell, Councilor J. Conners, Councilor C. Soltysiak, Councilor K. McGlenn, and Councilor A. MacHaffie
- **Committee members absent:** Councilor M. Ashton Young.
- **Others present:** President D. Pancoe, Vice President R. Bunker, Councilor M. Golden, Borough Manager G. Locke, Engineer K. Hassan, Fire Chief K. Lynch, Fire Chief M. Brogan, and Police Chief A. DiValentino.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Reports

- **Police Department** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Police Chief A. DiValentino wanted to highlight the report that the Borough's Traffic Engineer completed on York Road. This report was placed in Dropbox however Police Chief A. DiValentino highlighted that the Engineer noted that they assessed 200 plus cars and the average speed going northbound on York Road was 32mph with a minimum speed of 21mph and a maximum speed of 48mph, while traveling southbound on York Road the average speed was 33mph with a minimum speed of 23mph and a maximum speed of 45mph. Police Chief A. DiValentino highlighted that this study was done during the day and that the Police Department conducts their own study at night. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that in 2016, 137 speeding tickets were issued on York Road and 23 red light violation tickets were issued. Police Chief A. DiValentino assured the Committee that enforcement will continue to be prevalent on York Road.

Councilor M. Golden asked if the data was taken during peak hours and also if the Borough can use for other studies. President D. Pancoe responded by stating that PennDOT gave the Borough data for the volume of York Road during the 2035 Comprehensive Planning.

Vice President R. Bunker is still concerned about those numbers and would like to see continued enforcement on York Road.

Councilor C. Soltysiak asked Police Chief A. DiValentino if the data could be used to help the Borough receive red light cameras. Police Chief A. DiValentino responded by stating that the Police Department applied to receive red light cameras, however the population size for the Borough of Jenkintown is too small for the Police Department to receive red light cameras.

Councilor K Farrell encouraged Police Chief A. DiValentino to keep up the effort on not only the enforcement of York Road but the red light cameras.

- **Second Alarmers** – No Report.
- **Pioneer Fire Company** – A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **Independent Fire Company-** A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.

New Business

1. **Fire Department Training Assessment** – Chairperson C. Whitney stated that the Assessments have been completed and a final report is being drafted. Once the final report is complete it will be delivered to Borough Council.
2. **Fire Marshall Part Time Position** – Chairperson C. Whitney stated the Borough has begun the ad for the part time position for the Fire Marshall. A draft of the ad has been placed in Dropbox for review as there is one question left on the ad. This question will be discussed during the Fire Commission Meeting.
3. **Fire Commission Meeting** - Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the date for the Fire Commission meeting has been set and will be held on February 22nd at 6:30pm at Pioneer Fire Company.
4. **Police Staffing / Proposed New Hires** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the Borough hired a Police Officer earlier in the evening.
5. **Report on Scheduled Mediation on January 18th** – Police Chief A. DiValentino was optimistic to report that mediation was scheduled for January 18th at 6:30 pm here at Borough hall however both parties canceled. Police Chief A. DiValentino did speak to both parties but feels as though both conversations were “fruitless.” Police Chief A. DiValentino asked both parties to call the police when an issue is arising instead of handling it themselves.
6. **York Road Traffic Study & Enforcement** – Discussed during Police Department’s report.
7. **Lighting Consortium Disbandment** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the Lighting Consortium will be disbanding as of April 1st but as of February 3rd they are no longer servicing emergency calls or after hour calls. Since then, Abington Township and the Borough have sat down and had a preliminary conversation that Abington will complete the Borough repairs. The Borough is still waiting for a proposal but in the meantime the Borough has used Higgins Signalization, which is \$24 per hour less than the Consortium for emergency work that needed to be completed within the Borough

Councilor K. McGlonn stated that she was asked to discuss painting lines on Cedar Street to help with the order of parking. Councilor K. McGlonn would like to put this item on the schedule next month to discuss.

Old Business

1. **Timing of Traffic Light at Greenwood/Summit/Township Line** – Engineer K. Hassan noted that the requested changes have been made and they are waiting for a follow up meeting to check on the implementation of the changes. Last month, Borough Manager G. Locke stated that they did meet on site with PennDOT and the Traffic Engineers. Both PennDOT and the

Traffic Engineers believe that the light is operating like it should with the timing, however, when they met on site PennDOT realized that they needed to add a few seconds onto the West Avenue light, to allow for cars to go right over the bridge. PennDOT will not be shortening the light for the Township Line Road side. Borough Manager G. Locke stated that you also cannot see the stop here on red sign as you approach it from West Avenue, therefore, PennDOT will be adding another stop here on red sign on the island.

2. **Accessible Walk to Playground** - Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the railings have been ordered and will be installed once they are received and the school district is on a break. The only part that is left for the first phase is the installation of the railings which should be completed by the end of the month. The Borough and JSD are collaboratively working towards connecting the two paths, which will hopefully be completed over winter break.
3. **Town Square Electric Upgrades** – Councilor K. Farrell wanted to note that the Borough has hired an electrician to look at the GFI outlets in Town Square and replace the outlets if needed. Borough Manager G. Locke was happy to announce that all the work on the outlets have been completed and are in working order. Borough Manager G. Locke plans to have the electrician look inside the kiosk and finish the electrical work inside within the coming weeks.
4. **School Zone Safety Lights Update** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the pole locations have been “spotted” and the Borough is waiting on the delivery of the poles. The Borough signed a contract with Amour Electric with a cost around \$70,000. Pennoni issued a “Notice to Proceed” on December 27th. Construction will be beginning shortly and is expected to last two or three weeks. Traffic Engineer M. Bickerton is hopeful that the project can be completed by March 2017.
5. **Resident Concerns regarding Walnut Street** – There is no new updates from last month as the Engineer is reviewing the concerns with PennDOT. Last month, Charles Dotger, 311 Rodman Avenue, spoke before the committee to try and improve the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Rodman Avenue and Walnut Street. Mr. Dotger was looking to have the Borough install a pedestrian walkway, stop sign and signalization. Engineer K. Hassan explained to Mr. Dotger that a study must be completed before the Borough installs any signage and PennDOT has the final say as this intersection is on a state road, however Engineer K. Hassan stated that they would begin the study to look into the possibility of creating a safer intersection for pedestrians. Police Chief A. DiValentino also stated that he would increase patrol in that area.
6. **Greenwood Avenue School Safety Zone Report** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the preliminary plans have been approved and the Borough is now waiting for the official approval from PennDOT. Last month, Councilor K. Farrell stated that Pennoni has conducted a field survey they recommended a static school zone crossing. The static school zone crossing is similar to the one that they used to have on Walnut Street. Pennoni believes that this intersection does not meet the criteria for a flashing school zone light. A report has been placed in Dropbox. Borough Manager G. Locke stated that the Borough would have to go before PennDOT, in which Pennoni filed. Traffic Engineer M. Bickerton stated that PennDOT approved this signage. The plan has now been submitted to PennDOT and after final approval the Borough will move forward with the installation as soon as possible. Once more information is received Borough Manger G. Locke will update the committee.
7. **Walnut Street Safety Submittal to PennDOT** – There is no new updates for this topic. Last month, Councilor K. Farrell stated that Police Chief A. DiValentino pulled all of the accident reports on Walnut Street, between Hillside Avenue and Runnymede Avenue. Council has concerns regarding this section of Walnut Street due to the bend in Walnut Street at Cheltena Avenue. Traffic Engineer M. Bickerton, from Pennoni Associates, stated that Pennoni completed a field evaluation and have completed their recommendation. Pennoni recommends new reflective signage, more signage and new pavement markings. Traffic Engineer M. Bickerton

stated that Pennoni Associates then filed with PennDOT for this project to be a part of PennDOT's low cost safety improvement contract, and PennDOT agreed to include Walnut Street as a part of that project. Their current contract is expired and is out to bid right now and PennDOT is hopeful that the improvements should be completed by the Spring of 2017.

- 8. Striping on Florence Avenue to playground** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the Borough is still waiting to hear back from the Engineer and PennDOT regarding the crosswalk on Florence Avenue. Last month, Councilor K. Farrell highlighted that the Borough's Traffic Engineer has begun preliminary observations on whether or not a cross walk can be added onto the 300 block of Florence Avenue to allow for pedestrians to cross from Beaver Hill North to the playground. The Borough's traffic engineer has offered their preliminary opinion which has been placed in Dropbox for review. Engineer K. Hassan summarized the Engineers' Opinion which stated that the Borough has to meet certain criteria for this proposal to move forward. First the posted speed limit must be less than 35 mph, in this case the Borough's speed limit on this block of Florence is 15 mph. The second criteria is that the nearest marked crosswalk has to be 300 feet or greater away, Engineer K. Hassan is unsure if this meets the criteria as he has not measured the closest marked crosswalk. Finally, the number of pedestrians crossing must be more than eighty in one hour or forty over four hours. If elderly or children are crossing this number may be reduced by 50%. Pennoni is creating a final recommendation, and will be delivered to Council as soon the recommendation is completed.
- 9. Police Car Lease Program** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that this item will be going before Administration & Finance Committee next week.
- 10. Status of PD Request on Language in Borough Code to Match Accreditation Standard** – Chairperson C. Whitney stated that the solicitor has these changes and are reviewing them. Once information is received, the Police Department as well as the Committee will be updated.

Vice President R. Bunker wanted to highlight that he saw an accommodation from the FBI in the Chief's report. Police Chief A. DiValentino highlighted that Detective Mark Welsh received the accommodation for the Royal Bank bank robbery. The FBI recognized Detective Welsh for his diligence in solving the case.

Councilor C. Soltysiak asked Borough Manager G. Locke to keep her informed of any updates regarding the Striping on Florence Avenue to playground.

Adjournment: On motion of Vice President R. Bunker, seconded by Councilor K. Farrell, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.