



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 11th, 2016
7:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to order: Councilor K. Farrell called the meeting to order.

Attendance:

- **Committee members present:** Councilor K. Farrell, Councilor J. Conners, Councilor C. Soltysiak, and Councilor M. Ashton Young.
- **Committee members absent:** Councilor K. McGlonn
- **Others present:** Vice President R. Bunker, Borough Manager G. Locke, Engineer K. Hassan, Fire Chief K. Lynch, Fire Chief M. Brogan, Public Works Foreman K. Riggins, and Police Chief A. DiValentino.

Public Comment: Robert Wilson, 420 Newbold Road, appeared before the Committee to discuss the traffic on York Road. Mr. Wilson wanted the committee to know that cars are driving up and down York Road at rates of what he believes to be 50-60 miles per hour. Mr. Wilson believes that someone is going to be seriously hurt because the posted speed limit of 25 mph is not being enforced.

Councilor K. Farrell wanted Mr. Wilson to know that his voiced concerns are heard and will be taken into consideration. Councilor K. Farrell wanted Mr. Wilson to know that the Borough does attempt to inform drivers of the speed on that road by placing the Borough's speed trailer, which helps identify the speed of the cars driving by. After much discussion, the Borough informed Mr. Wilson that the Borough will collect more data and continue to assess the situation.

Reports

- **Police Department** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **Second Alarmers** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **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** – Councilor K. Farrell stated that the Assessments have been completed and a preliminary report has been provided for review. Borough Manager G. Locke stated that the Borough has begun the implementation of the Training Assessment such as a hiring for a Fire Marshal and the Fire Companies completing joint trainings.

2. **Fire Marshall Part Time Position** – Councilor K. Farrell 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. Councilor K. Farrell wanted to highlight that this position was suggested in the Fire Training Assessment Draft, to which the Borough wants to begin implementing.
3. **Striping on Florence Avenue to playground** – 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.
4. **Police Car Lease Program** – Councilor K. Farrell stated that initial documentation placed in Dropbox. Further discussion will be taking place in the near future regarding the lease program for the police cars. Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that this program is a wonderful program and that he would like to bring the dealership representative into Administration & Finance to further discuss the program and potentially use it for Fire Apparatus, Public Works vehicles and Police cars.
5. **Request for Permit parking, 300 block of Florence Avenue** – Steven Adelman, 302 Florence Avenue, appeared before the Committee tonight to discuss the possibility of permit parking on the 300 block of Florence Avenue. Mr. Adelman brought a petition signed by himself and his next door neighbor as they are the only two properties on that street without a driveway. Mr. Adelman believes that the parking is filled up though the commuters for the train station as well as the place for the school district teachers to park once the parking lot is full.

Councilor K. Farrell stated that she did receive an email from Mr. Adelman listing the reasons on the need for permit parking on the 300 block of Florence Avenue. Upon that request, Councilor K. Farrell asked that the Police Department assess the parking situation on the block of Florence Avenue. Police Chief A. DiValentino stated that he did send officers out to assess the parking situation at night, during the day, and on the weekend and determined that the cars that were parking there were from the residents at 169 Greenwood Avenue or the residents on Florence Avenue.

6. **Report on Scheduled Mediation on January 18th** – Police Chief A. DiValentino was optimistic to report that both parties, 303 Runnymede Avenue & 301 Runnymede Avenue, have agreed to begin mediation. This mediation is scheduled for January 18th at 6:30 pm here at Borough hall. They will not be discussing the violation letter or zoning issue, they will be discussing how to talk to each other civilly and become "better neighbors".
7. **Status of PD Request on Language in Borough Code to Match Accreditation Standard** – Councilor K. Farrell 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.

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 Borough and the Solicitor have signed the contract, and a pre-construction meeting was held. Borough Manager G. Locke stated the project is moving along as scheduled. 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** – Councilor K. Farrell stated that the plans have been prepared and submitted to PennDOT the Borough has not received any new information on the approval of these plans. 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 Cheltona 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.

Councilor M. Ashton-Young wanted to thank both Independent Fire Company and Pioneer Fire Company for their work on the house fire at 101 Runnymede Avenue.

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