



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 10th, 2018
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 J. Conners, Councilor C. Soltysiak, Councilor K. McGlenn and Councilor M. Ashton Young.
- **Committee members absent:**
- **Others present:** Vice President R. Bunker, Borough Manager G. Locke, Engineer K. Hassan, Fire Chief K. Lynch, Mayor A. Dobbs, Public Works Foreman K. Riggins, 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 highlighted that Abington has been finding boxes of items that have been shipped through Amazon all around the Township. All of the boxes found belonged to Jenkintown residents. The driver of Amazon had been opening the boxes, taking the contents, and discarding the boxes.
- **Pioneer Fire Company** – No Report.
- **Independent Fire Company**- A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that he has completed the required State end reporting and these reports have been submitted to State Fire Commissions Office for filing.
- **Second Alarmers** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.

New Business

1. **Fire Commission Meeting** – Chairperson C. Whitney stated that the Fire Commission meeting discussed the purchase of new fire apparatus, training requirements and purchasing procedures. Vice President R. Bunker noted that Pioneer has not brought any of their current officers up to the Borough's training standards nor have they made progress in doing so. During the Fire Commission meeting, the Councilor's in attendance informed Pioneer Fire Company that until the Borough sees a plan to bring their officers into compliance with the training standards, which are adopted from the State and National training standards, that Pioneer's officers are not allowed to

be in charge on the fire grounds. Additionally, their Chief's budget is frozen except for life safety equipment to which Borough Manager G. Locke will approve expenditures. Vice President R. Bunker stated that Pioneer Fire Company cannot be Borough Fire Chief due to not meeting the training qualifications. To become qualified, the credentials must be submitted to the Borough Manager, to which the Borough Manager will then check compliance with the training standards and make a determination. Vice President R. Bunker made a motion, seconded by Councilor K. Farrell, that the four restrictions placed against Pioneer Fire Company be moved to full Council.

Mayor A. Dobbs asked for clarification on what the Chief's budget is currently spent on and what they are allowed to do on the fire ground.

Fire Chief K. Lynch responded by stating that the Chief's budget is spent on house items, a wish list for the building, items needed for the building and so forth. Fire Chief K. Lynch also noted that they will be allowed to participate on the fire grounds, however they will not be in charge or have any authority on the fire grounds. The past few incidents Pioneer Fire Company has not engaged in due to lack of qualifications, however there is no life safety danger due to the mutual aid that is assisting on the Borough calls.

Vice President R. Bunker noted that there has been conversation that during the daytime when a lot of the volunteers are at work that it is very difficult to receive a large turnout for fire calls. The Borough has asked the Fire Company to start reporting that all the incidents that they are responding to, the equipment used, and whether the firefighters responding are certified or not to help the Borough understand the funding aspect as well as look into the possibility of more formal arrangements with other towns or hiring a few professional firefighters during the day to augment the volunteers.

Mayor A. Dobbs asked how the Borough would be affected by Pioneer Fire Company's actions. Vice President R. Bunker noted that the Borough would be liable due to negligent.

Fire Chief K. Lynch stated that volunteerism does not excuse professionalism. Fire Chief K. Lynch also stated that being a volunteer does not excuse them from not training. Independent Fire Company has approximately 70% active crew with small children yet Independent Fire Company still finds the time to be adequately trained. Fire Chief K. Lynch stated that either Pioneer Fire Company will move forward with the Borough or the Borough will need to discuss a new fire protection plan. Fire Chief K. Lynch stated that the purpose of the Fire Companies and the Fire Department as a whole is to protect the visitors and residents of the Borough to the best of their abilities.

After further discussion, the committee came to an agreeance that should there be no forward process and no other alternative, the Borough will have to make the call if Pioneer will remain in operation.

Fire Marshal K. Lynch did note that there is no threat to the public safety due to the mutual aid and policies that are currently in place.

2. **Fire Department Training** – Discussed during the Fire Commission Meeting.
3. **Knox Box Ordinance** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the Knox Box Ordinance went into effect on January 1, 2018.

4. **Borough Manager requested meeting with Chief and Officer Matteo** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that Borough Manager G. Locke requested meeting to discuss police vehicle fleet with their current and future needs. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that he believes that the Police Department and Borough Staff are meeting later in the week.
5. **Leasing of new Police vehicle** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the new Police vehicle budgeted and the purchase process to begin after meeting with Police.

Old Business

1. **Cedar Street Traffic Concerns - Police conducted traffic study** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the signage and striping will be installed as weather allows. Residents requesting speed hump and the Engineer will review field conditions. Councilor K. Farrell asked if the speed hump will fit in the area. Engineer K. Hassan noted that it had to be installed so that it eliminated the issue but did not create another issue. The Police Department completed two separate studies and the data was the same, and did not indicate the need for a speed hump. After much discussion, Engineer K. Hassan is going to view the field conditions and see if a speed bump is feasible and can be placed in such a location that will not hinder or create other traffic concerns.
2. **West Avenue / Walnut Street School Safety Zone** - Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the work has been completed and the grant closeout is being processed.
3. **Handicap Accessible curb cuts installed on York Road** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that they held a meeting with PennDOT 12/18/17. PennDOT will schedule removal of recently installed ramps which is scheduled to take place in the spring.
4. **RTK request filed for Stop Sign Traffic warrant study (Myrtle and Runnymede Avenue)** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the search revealed no studies were found. Councilor C. Soltysiak asked since there is no study, does the sign have to be removed. Borough Manager G. Locke discussed with long term property owners in the area who had historical knowledge and it appears as though the sign has been there approximately 35 years.
5. **Crosswalk on 300 block on Florence Avenue to playground** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the ramps have been approved and funded by the 2017 CDBG Grant. Councilor M. Ashton Young wanted to remind the committee that once the crosswalk is installed the Borough must decide if they are moving the crossing guard from West & Florence Avenues to the crosswalk across Florence Avenue or hiring an additional crossing guard.

Mayor A. Dobbs would like to look at the Borough's Ordinance and compare it to surrounding Municipalities Ordinances to see how they handle Solicitation. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the Solicitation Ordinance has recently been adopted and the Borough Solicitors Office had set the specifics such as times and fees. Mayor A. Dobbs would like to have each solicitor have a copy of the rules and regulations. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the Solicitors are each given a copy of the rules when they appear for their permit. Councilor K. Farrell believes that the Borough should blast the Solicitation rules and regulations so that residents are informed that they have the right however, the rules that the Solicitors have to follow.

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