



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**July 9, 2014**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to order:** Chairperson C. Durkin called the meeting to order.

**Attendance:**

- **Committee members present:** Chairperson C. Durkin, Councilor J. Conners, Councilor K. Farrell, Councilor C. Soltysiak, Councilor J. Mixon
- **Committee members absent:** Councilor M. Boutcher
- **Others present:** Vice President R. Bunker, Borough Manager G. Locke, Mayor E. Foley, Public Works Director T. Frank, Police Chief A. DiValentino, Fire Chief Joseph Connolly

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment at this time.

**Reports**

- **Police Department** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Chief DiValentino stated if there were any questions, concerns or comments he would have no problem answering them.
- **Second Alarmers** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. John Townsend could not make it to the meeting, however an updated oral report was provided for the entire months of January through May. It was stated the there was 240 requests for EMS here in Jenkintown. Out of 240 requests 210 were medical, 19 were fire, and 11 were vehicle. They have transported about 152 patients averaging to be 2/3. Second Alarmers wanted to thank Jenkintown Borough for the invitation to the 4th of July parade, they did attend and have a good time.
- **Pioneer Fire Company** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Chief Joseph Connolly wanted to make note that they have received state grant for \$13,000.00 to replace their SCBA breathing air pack. They are slowly replacing the air packs. The cascade system that refills the air packs has to be hydrostatically tested every five years by PENDOT request was not put into the Fire Department's budget. The cost for this test is between \$1,500.00 and \$2,000.00. This test was due at the end of May, trying to get the company to set the date. Will inform as soon as possible.

Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the money would have been in the budget this year but there was an oversight that fuel was being paid out of two places. We paid for fuel out of the fuel allowance line and the Chief's budget also included a fuel allowance. When the oversight was discovered Borough Manager G. Locke discussed the issue with both Fire Chiefs and an agreement was made to reduce each Fire House budget by \$2500.00. We now have the cash for the testing.

Fire Chief Joseph Connolly stated that they are finishing up their Has-Mat training for thirteen people from our Fire Department and there is about six from another area Fire Department. As of now the Fire Department has about thirty current members with Has-Mat training along with another fourteen once this class is over.

- **Independent Fire Company-** A written report was provided with the monthly report. Fire Chief Joseph Connolly spoke on behalf of Fire Chief Ken Lynch. Fire Chief Joe Connolly stated that everything was doing well over at Independent Fire Company, they have just been busy with the recent storm and the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

## **New Business**

1. **Police Use of Local Radar** - Chairperson C. Durkin spoke about a resolution he wanted to committee to endorse for the use of local radar in Jenkintown Borough. This resolution would allow local municipalities of Pennsylvania to use radar to enforce speed controls. Police Chief A. DiValentino said there is a few bumps with radar that the Police Chief's Association is trying to work out with the Pennsylvania State Police. One issue is municipalities can use radar if they are an accredited agency, Jenkintown is an accredited agency. The next issue is the employment of part time police officers would not allow you to use radar, although it was discovered to not be a significant issue, there is no logical reason as long as everyone is trained to use the radar.

Mayor E. Foley would greatly appreciate if the committee would forward this resolution on to Council so it would be passed. Pennsylvania is the only state that restricts to use of radar in this way. It is not the Pennsylvania State Police that is restricting the use, it is the State Legislature due to the concern that it may be used as a revenue raiser.

Motion made by Vice-President R. Bunker to move the resolution of Police Use of Local Radar to full council, seconded by Chairperson C. Durkin. The motion to move the Resolution of Police Use of Local Radar to full council passed unanimously.

2. **Greenwood Avenue Bridge Traffic** - Chairperson C. Durkin discussed that the bridge being open is a good step but there is some problems with the red light coming from Township Line Road and Summit Avenue. Borough Manager G. Locke stated that there has not been a response from Brian Early from PENDOT about a change in the light, a email was sent to him on July 9th from Borough Manager G. Locke as well as an email written by our State Representative Stephen McCarter. Borough Manager G. Locke expects to hear back from Brian and will follow up with committee when he does.
3. **Parking lot/Pioneer Request for Driveway Apron** - Chairperson C. Durkin discussed that when the fire trucks are in the far lot to wash them or take them out because of maintenance being done to the fire house they do not have any good egress to get out onto the street in a hurry. Chairperson C. Durkin wants to make it known that this is the discussion stage of this topic. There is a garden at the wall of our parking lot that abuts the fire company building. The discussion is to remove about fifteen feet of that garden and build a driveway apron so Pioneer has the ability to come out of the driveway and make the turn onto Greenwood Avenue. Chairperson C. Durkin wanted it to go to full council for the discussion of what would happen to the Borough, but preliminarily the discussion would be that the Borough would take on the engineering costs and the fire company would take on the construction costs. Fire Chief Joe Connolly stated that the Borough would not lose any parking because it is already owned by Pioneer fire company. The issue is the fire police vehicle sits in that lot, so when a call comes in

they have to go through the public access, which is a hazard. The other issue is when the trucks need inspection Pioneer has to close down that section of the parking lot to inspect their trucks. If the apron goes there they would just have to back the trucks up into that space and not close anything down, and there would be no access for people to pull out of the parking lot.

Chairperson C. Durkin asked how did it work the other day with brick re-pointing done. Fire Chief Joseph Connolly stated they closed the lot down from the Greenwood Avenue side, but they did that on a Monday so it did not take away business from the stores, but this apron would prevent that. Joseph Connolly also stated that the curb has a high step in front of fire house, but with this apron that would smooth out that curb a little to help with the tripping hazard.

Chairperson C. Durkin asked Borough Manager G. Locke when given the time to pull some drawings of that parking lot and run copies off so that it can be brought to council to have some idea on what is happening. Just want something to help explain to council. Fire Chief Joseph Connolly offered to take pictures as well to help explain to full council. This would be discussed at the August council meeting.

- 4. Wildlife Concerns** - Councilor K. Farrell discussed that there has been a reoccurrence of raccoons, possibly even a family or two of raccoons. This is a concerning to residents because of a few major concerns such as they do not want to provide a den for them to reproduce or have a sick raccoon come in. To eliminate these concerns the Borough has contracted A1 Pest Control who have been setting traps at the property to which the raccoons are suspected to be living at as well as surrounding properties in that area. A1 pest control has since caught two raccoons and one possum. Councilor K. Farrell believes a public service announcement should be sent out saying yes they are out there and we are very actively working on it but it would help if the residents would make sure trashcan lids were on tight and proper. Also if you see raccoons out during the day that is abnormal and to call Borough Hall immediately.

Councilor J. Conners stated that Borough Code does not state anything about trash can lids, it only states that items must be in a trash can or a tightly sealed bag. They also talked with a few people who know a lot about raccoons and stated that as long as you have trash out that is not in a tightly sealed trash can you will have wildlife. This may be a code that should be changed to adopt that idea.

Director of Public Works T. Frank stated the idea of putting in the ordinance that trashcans must have a lid that is bungee corded to them, that way it is on the owner and not the Borough, as well as still having the lid part of the ordinance.

## **Old Business**

- 1. York Road and Greenwood Avenue light timing update** - Chairperson C. Durkin stated that he believes it is going well. Borough Manager G. Locke stated he has not had any complaints with the light length of the red light from Pioneer to Abington from Greenwood Avenue. Chairperson C. Durkin stated he did feel as though the light has gotten longer.

Councilor J. Mixon said that cars do end up backed up so far that they pass Rhinoceros Toy Store.

Borough Manager G. Locke stated that he asked Earl and he said that he would let it work for a month and see if it needs adjustments after that. Borough Manager G. Locke also stated that he does not think that the actual timing was changed but that they changed the light on York Road from a lag to a lead from the south on 611.

Mayor E. Foley was unsure if this was Public Works, Public Safety or both. He stated that Borough Manager G. Locke, Director of Public Works T. Frank and himself have all had interaction with a resident that was unhappy with PECO's relocation of their meter sets from inside various business to outside on the sidewalk, for both aesthetic and safety reasons. Mayor E. Foley understanding is that they are allowed to do that now and that the Borough does not have any control over this. Audience member Dennis wanted to make it known because there may be more complaints from West Ave business owners due to it not looking very aesthetically pleasing.

Director of Public Works T. Frank stated he spoke with the individual making the complaint and told that resident that the Borough has no control and goes back to the federal level of infrastructure. T. Frank brought the idea up to BZ&R to make the area historic, but they are not giving any leniency to but taking in design considerations, however we do not fall into any of those categories. PECO stated that it has to be this way and the safety aspects, and upgrade to infrastructure has to be done and we cannot do anything.

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