



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
February 14th, 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:** None at this time.
- **Others present:** Vice President R. Bunker, Borough Manager G. Locke, Engineer K. Hassan, Fire Chief K. Lynch, Fire Chief G. Bachman, Mayor A. Dobbs, Public Works Foreman K. Riggins, and Police Chief A. DiValentino.

Before Public Comment, Chairperson C. Whitney asked for a moment of silence for the school shooting that took place in Florida.

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 the Police Department provided a report for the festivities that took place on Superbowl Sunday. The Police Department also will begin their program called JPAR to help combat the opioid crisis.

Vice President R. Bunker stated that there was a firearm assault noted in their report. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that there was an arrest made of an individual who had an unlicensed firearm on him. This individual is suspected of other crimes in general area. The firearm was confiscated.

Mayor A. Dobbs went to a vigil put on by L.E.A.R.N. L.E.A.R.N. put on this vigil due to letters being distributed for recruitment for the Klu Klux Klan. The vigil was not highly attended but well informed and moving. L.E.A.R.N is going to keep responding. L.E.A.R.N will also be holding a workshop, Interrupting Hate Workshop, at Upper Moreland Township Building.

Councilor J. Conners asked Police Chief A. DiValentino for an update regarding the crossing guard who was struck by a vehicle last month at the intersection of West Avenue and York Road. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that the crossing guard was evaluated at the emergency room and was not hurt. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that this crossing guard was struck by a school employee who was distracted. The crossing guard was inside the crosswalk with her vest and stop sign. The Police Department will be monitoring that intersection. Councilor K. McGlenn asked if the Police Department would do an in class discussion at the School District to talk about the importance of crossing with the crossing guard, maybe this could take place during walk to school week. Councilor K. McGlenn also noted that the School District asked to have a refresher training for the crossing

guards. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that when the crossing guards are hired they are given the crossing guard instruction booklet, which is then gone over inside the Police Department with the appropriate personnel. Police Chief A. DiValentino stressed that crossing guards are not supposed to direct traffic.

Councilor M. Ashton Young noted that she reached out to Borough Manager G. Locke regarding a concern about the traffic coming up Highland Avenue. Borough Manager G. Locke responded to Councilor M. Ashton Young within 20 minutes and are looking for solutions into solving her concerns about the Highland Avenue traffic.

Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that the drop off loop in front of the building on West Avenue seems to be working well. One problem that arises is when people are parking in the Fire Lane during School events. The Police Department has been issuing tickets for those who are parking in the Fire Lane. The Police Department did warn residents via the community page regarding the parking in the Fire Lane and the issuance of tickets.

- **Pioneer Fire Company** – No written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Fire Chief G. Bachman noted that they have applied for a grant through the Office of State Fire Commissioners. The grant was open to all Fire Companies in the state who are currently all volunteer companies. Pioneer Fire Company received \$13,000 in support. Most of the grant money will be used to purchase mounting equipment for the air packs Pioneer received.
- **Independent Fire Company**- A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that he has started the talk with the School District regarding the bonfire.

Vice President R. Bunker asked Fire Chief K. Lynch to explain the reports that we provided due to the report having multiple sections. Vice President R. Bunker is specifically looking for the response time during the week.

- **Second Alarmers** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.

New Business

1. **Borough Council Approval of JPD Sergeants Examination Results** – Police Chief A. DiValentino highlighted that the Police Department gave the written examination as well as Civil Service Commission completing their interviews for the exam. Civil Service Commission also certified the list. The candidates also completed their psychological exam. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that an eligibility list has been provided with the monthly meeting materials which the Police Department is looking to move forward to full Council for approval.

Vice President R. Bunker noted that there is only one officer on the list, Officer Mark Welsh. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that there were three applicants and one withdrew, one “did not make a passing grade with one of the aspects”, and the third is Officer Mark Welsh.

Mayor A. Dobbs asked if the list is certified for one year after it is approved. Police Chief A. DiValentino confirmed that the list would be certified for a year.

Chairperson C. Whitney made a motion, seconded by Councilor M. Ashton Young, to move the promotion of Officer Mark Welsh to a Sergeant to full Council. Motion approved unanimously.

2. **Fire Department Radio Upgrade/Replacement** – Borough Manager G. Locke stated that the Fire Department is required to upgrade their radios by January of 2019. The Borough submitted a grant to FEMA grant for funding which was prepared by Fire House Grant Writers. The Borough just received news that the County is offering them approximately \$30,000 in radio costs, which will decrease the amount needed from the grant.
3. **Fire Police Reports** – Fire Police Captain D. Cline stated that the Fire Police Reports for the year end and January 2018 were provided with the monthly meeting materials.
4. **Fire Commission Meeting** – Vice President R. Bunker stated that the Fire Commission meeting discussed Officer Certifications, limitations placed on Pioneer, Fire Emergency Radios, 2019 Purchase of Fire Apparatus (Ladder Truck).
5. **Proposed 2019 Purchase of Fire Apparatus Vehicle** – Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that they met with the manufacturer after the conclusion of the Fire Commission meeting to discuss the specification packet and questions that the Fire Department had. Once the questions were answered, the manufacturer will develop a set of specification presentation.
6. **“Children at Play” signs requested on Hillside Avenue** – Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that a resident on Facebook requested a “Children at Play” sign for the 400 block of Hillside Avenue. Police Chief A. DiValentino is asking Borough Manager G. Locke and Public Works Foreman K. Riggins if a sign can be installed at both ends of the 400 block of Hillside Avenue, Elm Avenue and Walnut Street. Fire Chief G. Bachman believes that there “Children at Play” at play sign in front of his house on the corner of Hillside Avenue and Elm Avenue. The Committee approves the installation of the sign.

Old Business

1. **Leasing of new Police vehicle** – Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the Borough has sent request for quotes out to five Ford dealerships that are on COSTARS so they will not have to be bid. The prices are still negotiable.
2. **Cedar Street Traffic Concerns - Police conducted traffic study** – Engineer K. Hassan noted that the site did meet the qualifications for a speed hump such as being 100 feet from the intersection. The next step is for Pennoni to put together a standard detail to give to Borough Manager G. Locke for review. Once the weather breaks it will be estimated and constructed.
3. **Permit Parking Request: Florence Avenue** – Borough Manager G. Locke noted that this item was tabled from last month. Chairperson C. Whitney noted that he did not like permit parking in this area and would like see it removed from the agenda. Vice President R. Bunker agrees and at most thinks that the Borough should stripe the parking spaces, but does not want to see this as permit parking only.

Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the Borough may want to speak to neighbors and get firsthand information whether they want it striped. Councilor J. Conners noted that he is not in favor of permit parking on Florence Avenue. Councilor J. Conners noted that the Police Department has not received any complaints regarding cars blocking the driveway, however that does not mean that this resident's concerns / complaints are justified.

Councilor M. Ashton Young noted what if half of the residents say yes and half say no. What does the Borough intend to do. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that they all signed the petition for permit parking, therefore Mayor A. Dobbs believes that you could receive a consensus one way or another on whether the residents wanted stripes. After much discussion, the committee decided to have Engineer K. Hassan review the conditions and lay out a plan showing the parking spaces, whether it could be on both sides of the street and so forth.

4. **Fire Department Training** – Pioneer Fire Chief G. Bachman noted that Deputy 9 has been in touch in Bucks County Fire Academy to receive training from where it was left off last year. Pioneer Fire Company noted they had three people signed up for a Firefighting 2 class that was canceled due to Bucks County instructor issues.
5. **West Avenue / Walnut Street School Safety Zone** – Borough Manager G. Locke noted that they have received a complaint that the lights come on five minutes too late and go off five minutes too late. The Borough has called the timing issue in to Abington Township to be remediated.
6. **Handicap Accessible curb cuts installed on York Road** – Borough Manager G. Locke noted PennDOT met with Council members. Agreed they appeared unsafe and have slated all six to be removed as weather allows. PennDOT asked the Borough to place barrels at the ramps discouraging use. Borough Manager G. Locke hesitates blocking these ramps off as he feels as though the Borough may be taking ownership into directing people where to go. Chairperson C. Whitney suggested that the Borough place a sign on the barrels stating that this is not a crosswalk.
7. **Crosswalk on 300 block on Florence Avenue to playground** – Borough Manager G. Locke highlighted that the design is complete and the crosswalk is to be bid in March and built in July. The Borough will need a crossing guard at that location.

Fire Marshal K. Lynch noted that the Red Cross reached out to him two weeks ago regarding a new program they are implementing from April 28th to May 13th called Sound the Alarm, Save a Life. This program is in conjunction with the 6ABC program Save a Life. The Red Cross will be walking around to approximately 150 homes passing out literature regarding fire safety and install smoke detectors on the homes that need them that currently do not have any. The Borough's Sound the Alarm, Save a Life will take place on Saturday May 12th, 2018. The intent is to visit the 400 block of Leedom, Cedar and Maple Streets.

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