



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
March 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 K. Farrell, Councilor J. Conners, Councilor C. Soltysiak, and Councilor K. McGlonn.
- **Committee members absent:** Councilor M. Ashton Young.
- **Others present:** Vice President R. Bunker, Borough Manager G. Locke, Mayor A. Dobbs, Engineer K. Hassan, Fire Chief G. Bachman, Fire Chief K. Lynch, 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 they have completed their accreditation cycle, which will not have to be completed until 2021. The Police Department did complete the crossing guard refresher training. An officer conducted the training along with training materials such as a video, power-point presentation and short assessment. Police Chief A. DiValentino highlighted that he attended a safety meeting on March 10th at the Jenkintown School District. Police Chief A. DiValentino asked that the Public Works Department install a handicap sign in front of 104 Walnut Street.
- **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. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that the Fire Company has completed their Haz-Mat refresher program. Next month, the Fire Company is completing CPR & First Aid as well as an Autism Awareness within the Emergency Responders. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that the Independent Fire Company was awarded \$15,000 from the State Fire Commissioners Office.
- **Fire Police** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.
- **Second Alarmers** - A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials.

New Business

1. **Leasing of new Police vehicle** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that quotes have been requested through COSTARS. All responses to requests being handled by the Jenkintown Police Department. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that they have sent out four request for quotes and have received one back so far.
2. **Fire Commission Meeting** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Fire Commission meeting will be held tomorrow, March 15th.
3. **Proposed 2019 Purchase of Fire Apparatus Vehicle** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that Independent has begun working with vendor to spec vehicle that is scheduled for purchase. An additional status meeting was held on January 25th, 2018. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that the he has a meeting with the truck manufacturer tomorrow night with a modified set of specifications.
4. **Light timing at Larry Curry Bridge (West & Summit Avenues)** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that Pennoni Engineering is currently making observations of traffic and light movements. Engineer K. Hassan noted that they did visit the site and review the conditions. Engineer K. Hassan noted that the light appears to be working with its intended functions. Engineer K. Hassan asked if the complaints were during the AM rush hour or PM rush hour.
5. **2014 FEMA / PEMA Grant Closeout Completed** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the closeout has been completed for the 2014 Grant pertaining to the air packs received.
6. **Noble Bridge Repair / Replacement** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the Borough attended the SEPTA / PennDOT status meeting in Abington Township. This project is currently scheduled to be bid in January 2019. Construction to begin in June 2019 and is expected to last approximately 18 months. Noble Bridge will be one lane each direction.

Councilor K. McGlenn wanted to note that she met with Mayor A. Dobbs and Borough Manager G. Locke as well as some members of the school district to discuss safety as it pertains to the way the current culture is in regards to absence of sufficient gun laws. Currently they are doing monthly testing of the panic buttons in each building as well as working on camera upgrades both interior and exterior. The School District will be increasing the lighting on the playground as well as developing a phone app that will allow live streaming for the Police Department. Additionally, the School District is working with an Engineering Company who will be coming next week to look at the front of the building which will include a new vestibule for primary holding. A major concern is that there is no security officer or active duty police officers that are coming through the building. Dr. Takacs reported that Jenkintown School District is the only School District in Montgomery County that does not have one of those two resources. In addition to discussing intruder training, and the other mechanisms the immediate request from the School District is to request Police presence on site in the building every day either on the forms of a Police Officer stopping through which they will offer any kind of tech support that would be useful for the officer or cost sharing for a part time officer. The goal is to increase the visibility of the police within the school as well as create a perception of a larger police presence within the schools. Dr. Takacs stated that it is not her objective to have to Police work in any kind of disciplinary regards. Councilor K. McGlenn noted that she told Dr. Takacs that she would take the immediate request to get more presence of a Police Officer to the committee and to full Council for consideration. Councilor K. McGlenn suggested that they take their request before the School Board in April to discuss the possibility of more of a police presence.

Police Chief A. DiValentino stated that the Police Department is all about safety. When he discussed this proposal with Dr. Takacs Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that he informed Dr. Takacs that he would

take the request before Borough Council. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that there will be a cost factor on their end and that the Police Departments resources are limited, however since that meeting there has been an officer walking around the school but not spending any amount of time in the School. Councilor J. Conners would like to see a police presence in the school. Councilor K. McGlonn noted that the School District is looking for more of a police presence in the school for a certain amount of time. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that she believed that Dr. Takacs was looking more for a full time officer in the building. Additionally, Mayor A. Dobbs noted that she likes the idea of the officers interacting with the children, especially those of middle school & high school age, as she would like them to see use the police officers as resource officers. Councilor K. Farrell is slightly alarmed by the thought of an armed guard within the School District. Councilor K. McGlonn noted that Dr. Takacs would rather have a trained police officer there rather than a security guard. Councilor K. MCGlonn suggested that they take their request before the School Board in April to discuss and the Borough will take it before the Council meeting to complete due diligence and discuss it with all of council.

Maya Cheek, President of the School Board, appeared before the committee to confirm with Councilor K. McGlonn had said. Ms. Cheek noted that the kids cannot learn if they cannot feel safe, whether emotionally or physically. Ms. Cheek noted that this may happen in baby steps as the School District figures out what works. The School District and the School Board are willing to work with Borough Council and the Jenkintown Police Department.

MaryRose Santee, 448 Maple Street, noted that she believes that positive police presence will build a relationship with the children rather than just placing an officer in the school. It was also noted that MaryRose Santee believes that there are ways within the community to include and strengthen the relationship between the community and the police and build the bridges within the community.

Councilor K. McGlonn wanted to make the recomunication to have the Chief continue to have the Police Department enter the school as they are and then Council discusses what they can do to support the School District in the long term as it pertains to police presence. Councilor K. McGlonn would also like to wait to hear back from the School District about the response they received regarding the proposals.

Old Business

- 1. Fire Department Radio Upgrade/Replacement** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the FEMA grant submitted for funding of \$146,252, if awarded the 5% match will be \$7,312. Grant prepared by Fire House Grant Writers.
- 2. Cedar Street Traffic Concerns – Speed Hump between Harper Avenue & Washington Lane** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Engineer reviewed the area and a speed hump is feasible and the location has been identified. The Borough will have the speed hump constructed when weather allows.
- 3. Fire Department Training** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the training update has been submitted from Independent Fire Company and is being reviewed by staff
- 4. West Avenue / Walnut Street School Safety Zone** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Jenkintown School District inquired to have additional safety training for crossing guards. Training was held on March 9th here at Borough Hall.
- 5. Pioneer & Independent Fire Companies Budget Contributions made in March** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the contributions have been released.

6. **Pioneer had vehicle expenditures approved as life / safety expenditures** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that Borough Manager G. Locke approved these expenditures as life safety expenditures.
7. **Handicap Accessible curb cuts installed on York Road** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that 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 has asked PennDOT to install more “permanent” barriers
8. **Crosswalk on 300 block on Florence Avenue to playground** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Borough applied for and approved through the 2017 CDBG Grant. Design complete. To be bid in this month and built in July. Crossing guard will be needed.

Adjournment: On motion of Councilor C. Soltysiak, seconded by Councilor K. Farrell, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously.