



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
May 9th, 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, and Councilor C. Soltysiak.
- **Committee members absent:** Councilor K. Farrell, Councilor K. McGlenn and Councilor M. Ashton Young.
- **Others present:** President D. Pancoe, 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 an autism awareness training which went well. Additionally, JUMP visited the Police Station yesterday, May 8th, and toured the Police Department.
- **Pioneer Fire Company** – A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Fire Chief G. Bachman noted that the Borough will have the training record next week.
- **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 CPR refresher program.
- **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. **FEMA 2017 SAFER** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the application was submitted prior to deadline. The Borough requested the Grant in the amount of \$175,000 which will cover financial compensation for time spent responding to emergency calls and hours spent on training. The Grant will also provide funding for recruitment campaigns. This grant is a zero match and 100% funded by the Federal Government. There has been no notice of when the awards will be made.

2. **American Red Cross Sound the Alarm Campaign** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the American Red Cross Sound the Alarm Campaign will be taking place next Saturday, May 12th, beginning on Leedom, Cedar, and Maple Streets. Other streets will be added if supplies allow with Division Street being the first on the alternate list. This program assists the Fire Marshal and Fire Department in providing Smoke detectors and fire safety tips to residents. Fire Marshal K. Lynch noted that this was the first year that the American Red Cross has implemented this campaign however they are hoping to make it an annual event. The Fire Department distributed 299 notices and are prepared to go until materials are all distributed. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that the American Red Cross will be bringing other equipment out to show and inform the public on what the American Red Cross does.
3. **Abington Township Person with AR-15** – Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that there was a resident in Abington Township who was walking in public with an AR-15. This resident has since been admitted into building 50 for a mental evaluation related to other reasons. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that the Abington Township resident was looking to make a statement and engage those in his second amendment rights. Abington Township Police Department monitored the situation however continued to allow him to express his second amendment rights.
4. **Fire Commission Meeting** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the May Fire Commission meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 24th, 6:30 PM at Independent Fire House.
5. **2019 Purchase of Fire Apparatus Vehicle** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that Borough Council has authorized initiating the purchase process. The cost/finance calculations will be sent to A&F this month (May) Independent continues working for preparation to purchase a new ladder truck in 2019 these efforts have been initiated due to the 445 day lead time for construction. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that the Fire Department has not executed the contract yet however wants to make sure that everything is in order prior to moving forward. The Fire Department will hold a status meeting with the Borough Manager G. Locke, Deputy Chief Pross and himself prior to the Administration & Finance committee meeting. Vice President R. Bunker asked if the meeting was to discuss the buying vs. financing and who the purchaser would be? Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that it was.

Old Business

1. **Purchase of Police Vehicle** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Ford Explorer was delivered, painted and is currently being fitted out with all required accessories. Police Chief A. DiValentino thanked the committee and noted that the new vehicle should be on the road shortly.
2. **Meeting with Cheltenham & Abington Townships regarding signal at Washington Lane & Township Line Road** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that PennDOT Transportation Manager reached out to the Borough Manager and invited the Borough to submit an application for the Green Light Go Grant to replace the traffic light system at Township Line and Washington Lane. There is an additional grant through the County that would pay half of the required match. This intersection has joint responsibility with the Borough, Cheltenham and Abington Townships. A meeting has been set with all parties in late May. The traffic light system is antiquated, in need of replacement. Additionally, PennDOT sees this as an opportunity to interconnect this intersection with the traffic lights on York Road. Borough Manager G. Locke noted that the intersection does need to be updated.

3. **Vista Road - School Safety** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the speed study was performed by the JPD. The Borough Engineer investigated the possibility of installing a “School Safety Zone” the factors do not warrant a school safety zone. The Borough Engineer, JPD and PW worked to install two (2) “Watch Children” safety signs. The Borough Engineer has been asked by Council to observe and recommend additional striping and possibility of a speed hump to increase safety. The Borough Speed trailer has been placed on Vista Road and the Police have increased Patrols and observation of the area. Mayor A. Dobbs asked if a small speed box can be attached to a post and how much would that cost? Borough Manager G. Locke noted that a small speed box could be attached to a post and it would cost approximately \$8,000. Councilor C. Soltysiak asked if the speed box could be moved. Engineer K. Hassan noted that it could be. Councilor J. Conners thanked the committee and the Borough Administration for it work on the project.

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