



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
September 12th, 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 K. Farrell, Councilor K. McGlenn, and Councilor C. Soltysiak.
- **Committee members absent:** Councilor M. Ashton Young.
- **Others present:** Vice President R. Bunker, President D. Pancoe. Borough Manager G. Locke, Mayor A. Dobbs, Engineer M. Bickerton, 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 noted that there are items under new business that he would like to have.
- **Pioneer Fire Company** – Fire Chief G. Bachman noted that a written will be given to Fire Chief K. Lynch. Additionally, Fire Chief G. Bachman noted that they are receiving information regarding the ArtsFest.
- **Independent Fire Company-** A written report was provided with the monthly meeting materials. Fire Chief K. Lynch noted that Fire Prevention is next month, in October. Fire Chief K. Lynch asked the committee for permission to use the area in and around town square on Thursday October 11th from 6PM until 9PM.
- **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. **Fire Commission Meeting**– Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the September Fire Commission meeting is set for Thursday, September 20th, 6:30 PM at Borough Hall.
2. **2019 Purchase of Fire Apparatus Vehicle** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that Borough Council has authorized the purchase process for the new ladder apparatus. The Borough has contracted with Spartan Fire and Emergency Apparatus in the amount of \$351,643.00 which was paid at contract signing and covered 100% of the chassis price. The remaining balance shall be

paid at the time of delivery. This payment option will allow the Borough to save \$7,515.00. Independent continues working with the Borough Solicitor and Borough Administration to complete the contractor ordering process.

3. **Police Department Speed Trailer** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the speed trailer was involved in an accident in the middle of August. Speed trailer was totaled and not salvageable for repair. Insurance Company of the individual who hit the speed trailer will cover the cost. Police Department have begun the search for a new speed trailer. Quotes have been received and are being reviewed. Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Borough has had their speed trailer since 2001.

President D. Pancoe asked if a trailer was more efficient than the speed devices that attach to poles. Chief A. DiValentino noted that the ones that attached to poles at \$2,000 to \$2,500 and are staying there for a long period of time. This also would not be practical on York Road. Councilor C. Soltysiak asked if the Borough can purchase a few of the “cheaper” ones to place around town when the detour for Noble Bridge begins.

4. **FEMA 2017 SAFER** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the application was submitted prior to deadline. Grant request is in the amount of \$175,000 and it will cover financial compensation for time spent responding to emergency calls and hours spent on training. It will also provide funding for recruitment campaigns. This grant is a zero match. 100% funded by the Federal Government. After seven rounds, it appears as though the Borough did not receive this grant.
5. **Meeting with Cheltenham & Abington Townships regarding signal at Washington Lane & Township Line Road** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Borough has passed a Resolution in support of this grant and Pennoni Association Inc. have handled the submittal for the three municipalities.

Chief A. DiValentino noted that the interview committee with the Police Department interviewed four candidates for part-time employment. After those interviews, it was noted that the Police Department would like to move forward with hiring two of the four candidates to full Council. Mayor A. Dobbs asked if Police Chief A. DiValentino would provide their resumes to full Council, Police Chief A. DiValentino agreed.

Chairperson C. Whitney asked what the part time Police Officers are making an hour. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that they start out at \$12 an hour during their probation then move to \$14 an hour once their probation is completed. From there it can be raised as seen fit for years of service with the department. Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Borough should look at possibly increasing the pay during the next budget. Vice President R. Bunker asked that Police Chief A. DiValentino research what part time police officers make in neighboring municipalities.

Vice President R. Bunker made a motion, seconded by Chairperson C. Whitney, to move the two new part time hires to full Council. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. **Walnut Street Parking on Sidewalk** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the Police Department has begun ticketing cars parked on the sidewalk on Walnut Street in early July. The Police Department have received positive feedback and no complaints.

Councilor K. McGlenn asked if Police Chief A. DiValentino received any feedback regarding Walnut Street. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that he has not received any feedback but positive feedback. Police Chief A. DiValentino noted that they have only issued eight tickets, however four or five have been to the same vehicle.

2. **Proposed Roadway Safety Improvements** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the Borough has worked with our Engineer, PW and the Administration to identify areas of needed safety improvement. This year the Borough has added the placement of a speed hump on Cedar Street and safety striping at Hillside Avenue and Walnut Street that will include; four (4) Colonial Style (piano keys) crosswalks and 24” stop bars at all four approaches. The cost of these safety improvements were included in the 2018 paving project. The Borough is expecting this work to be completed in late September/October.
3. **Walnut Street Striping: Greenwood Avenue to Runnymede Avenue** – Chairperson C. Whitney highlighted that the double yellow line striping has been completed.
4. **Vernon Road One Way Safety Concern** – Chairperson C. Whitney noted that the concerns have been voiced to the Borough concerning traffic traveling the wrong way on Vernon Road to access Vista Road. PW installed “Do Not Enter” signs on Vernon Road at Clement Road. The Borough Engineer has been asked to look at the conditions while evaluating possible additional signage/strip on Vista Road to see if the projects can be combined to make the area safer while providing a cost saving benefit.
5. **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.

Mayor A. Dobbs went to the Chelsea this week for the recognition of First Responders. One of the main themes there was the crosswalk from in front of the Chelsea across to 459 York Road with the light. Mayor A. Dobbs noted that the residents from the Chelsea and also residents from the East side of town, Vernon & Clement Road, noted that the light is not long enough for the residents to cross safely. Engineer K. Hassan noted he will work with the Mayor to find a viable solution.

Borough Manager G. Locke noted that PennDOT finalized the Green Light Go Grant in the amount of \$95,000 for the battery backups for the traffic lights as well as three small generators. Additionally, the Borough did receive approval from FEMA for the radio grant.

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