

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:32 Hrs.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Councilor Fahndrich, Councilor Crider, Councilor Eichler, Mayor Bradley, Chief Goshen and Borough Manager Pugliese.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for February 24, 2025 as presented was made by Councilor Crider; seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented carried unanimously. Note: There will be an Executive Session to discuss legal/personnel matters.

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

- a. Review with possible motion on any change orders
Nothing to report.

PUBLIC INPUT

Josh Deering, 33 Frank Street, wasn't sure if this was Public Works or Public Safety concern but it has come up before regarding the sign coming into town from the West that says 'brake retarders' by School Lane (772 across from the library) is pretty faded so he thinks it is time to replace the sign or put it in the Ordinance that we don't want any brake retarders.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes from the January 27, 2025 Public Safety Committee Meeting was made by Councilor Eichler; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes from the January 27, 2025 meeting have been approved.

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Brett Hamm presented his report for January which was included in the packet. They responded to fifty-eight calls for the month of January 2025; ninety-nine calls to date so they are starting off the year quite busy. Time in service was forty-eight hours and forty-four minutes. Calls were every twelve hours and forty-nine minutes. They averaged 8.5 members per call for the month. The average response time in January was five minutes and fifteen seconds with an average arrival time to the scene of seven minutes and thirty-three seconds.

Total training for the month was one hundred three members trained for a total of one hundred eighty (half) hours for January. There were thirty-nine first due alarms; twenty in the Borough, fourteen in Rapho Township, two in Mount Joy Township and three in East Donegal Township and nineteen mutual aids. There was one notable first due call in January, a dwelling on Kinderhook Road in Rapho Township with an estimated thirty-thousand-dollar loss. There were six duty crew events and one work detail to remove decorations from the Borough tree. They had the standard meetings.

EMA REPORT

Phil Colvin reviewed his summary report for January which was included in the packet. Not a lot going on. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is still in progress. He reviewed a draft of it and found that it was missing almost all of our projects that were submitted so he got hold of the consultant and they acknowledged that they were missing it. Phil will make sure it is corrected before it comes to the Borough for approval and adoption. Planned activities include: working on updating the Borough's Emergency Operations Plan, scheduling a meeting soon with the Memorial Day Parade organizers and there is a meeting scheduled with the organizers of the Brew Fest.

Mayor Bradley questioned what we are doing with the FDMJ issue from last month but wanted to wait until both reports were given. There had an extensive discussion last month about the potential issues. He was wondering if the fire department had given any thought about it. Phil Colvin mentioned that it came up in the Executive Board meeting but they haven't done much else with it. He feels they should have another meeting perhaps with Borough Manager Pugliese; something to at least start the discussion. There have been a couple of ideas that are floating around the firehouse right now that the people would like to see but they need to come up with something formal. A fair amount of data is necessary and then should be able to come up with something more towards the end of this year because of the way they are tracking things activities outside fire calls. Mayor Bradley is concerned that we are already into 2025 so if there is anything that we are potentially going to do that requires funding in 2026, we are going to need to have that conversation by September, so sooner than later. We need to see who might be a good liaison from this Committee to work on this matter. Mayor Bradley would like this to be kept under 'Old Business' so it stays on the radar for this Committee and to reach out to the fire department between this and next meeting. Phil Colvin will start gathering some ideas and thoughts about what it might look like.

PSH LIFE LION REPORT

Scott Buchle, Director, Penn State Health Life Lion, was in attendance and reviewed the report for January. There were one thousand one hundred three incidents in Lancaster County. There were seventy incidents covered in the Borough with twenty-two that were either covered by/assisted by mutual aid EMS. Mutual aid was slightly higher for a couple of reasons; FMLA and sickness and they had one hundred fifty-six more calls this month over December, so overall the volume has been up. They handled 81.5% of the calls in their home district with 18.4% handled by mutual aid, which is up 5% from the month of December. Staffing wise, he still believes that they are turning the corner slowly. They have a wave of staff coming in March and are still aggressively trying to recruit paramedics which has been challenging. He did meet with MESA about a week or so ago to review their stats. Unfortunately, they are no closer to

understanding MESA's numbers then previously. MESA's numbers come from the County and MESA's and Life Lion's County reports are different; no idea why. One thing that they do know is that if Life Lion goes to a call and MESA goes, they are both counted, so if Life Lion is on a call, Life Lion does not consider it a missed call, however if mutual aid is coming in for ALS or in some cases, if there is a car crash and you have multiple patients and there are three Life Lion units there and a fourth patient has to go with MESA, it is counted as a missed call. Life Lion does not agree with it being a missed call and that is up to the individual municipalities to deal with that as they see fit. Life Lion is still there. The support that Life Lion has received from the municipalities over this is wonderful. Recently there was an article online which has stirred up a lot of controversy. There seems to be some misinformed people on MESA's leadership board as far as the nature of what mutual aid is. It is not just MESA that is having to deal with mutual aid and it will never go away; the only hope is that it gets better. Life Lion's challenge is the geography because they sit between MESA and the busiest part of the county. The next conversation is going to be with the County leadership on how/why the numbers are different. Kim Keene spends a lot of time scrubbing over the reports every month and on an average sees 40- 80 calls that County says we missed when in fact Life Lion was on the calls. Also, there are calls on County's reports that say we were on a call, when in fact, mutual aid handled the call. Is it a fault of the CAD system or the dispatchers? They are busy.

Councilor Eichler explained that as an elected Official, he is tired of getting hung out in the public. He would like to see the Solicitor get involved in these different reports and various requests. What is the next step? It doesn't appear we are getting to an agreement.

Mayor Bradley doesn't know what next step he is looking for. MESA wants the Borough to pay their bill and we have told them we are not going to pay the bill. Perhaps we could get together with other municipalities that have also been approached about a bill and put out a press release to set the record straight about what mutual aid looks like, but that is a different type of response. Two other emergency services (fire and police) utilize mutual aid and wouldn't say that someone missed a call. Every working fire is assisted by surrounding municipalities. This is mutual aid.

Mayor Bradley inquired about any insight into the two Life Lion organizations and any potential merger of those organizations. Scott Buchle provided some insight about the organizations.

Councilor Eichler asked if Penn State is doing anything within their hospital about the UPMC York Memorial incident. Scott Buchle explained that the health system is having a 'health system employee town hall' to review policies and procedures. Violence against health care workers is on the rise.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Formal Process for Committee Communication on Capital Projects
Borough Manager Pugliese relayed that they will be discussing this tomorrow at the staff meeting. They have two staff meetings per month so this would be the forum to make sure everyone signs off on projects that are brought to the table.

NEW BUSINESS

a. 2025 SAAM Proclamation

SAAM – Sexual Assault Awareness Month is in April. Information is provided in your packet through the YWCA. Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council the 2025 SAAM Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation to full Council; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Municipal Complex Ordinance Exemptions

Chief Goshen explained that these are ordinances that could potentially be brought up by complainants so there needs to be a mechanism in place to address it. Committee appreciates Chief Goshen for being proactive about this potential issue. Councilor Crider made a motion to move to full Council to grant an exemption for the following ordinances for the duration of the Municipal Complex construction period: Chapter 255, Article IV Parking Regulations; Chapter 170 Noise; Chapter 182 Parks and Recreation Areas; and Chapter 232, Article II Obstructions and Encroachments; seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion carried unanimously.

c. COL's for Events

Chief Goshen explained that historically there are five events that belong to the Borough that we discussed last year; Memorial Day Parade, Car Show, National Night Out, Fall Fest and Winter Fest. Previously, the organizations would utilize our COL for the coverage of the events. This year in order to expedite the applications for the road closure of Main Street, the Borough utilized their COL. This conversation as to whether the Borough's COL would extend to these five events was tabled at the time for further discussion. The event organizers have come back and asked for clarity because they are going to have to pay for it if it is not a Borough sanctioned event. So, we are back to whether or not we are going to do this. The previous organization that did manage this, when they decided to fold, they attempted to take these events with them and so Borough Manager Pugliese and Chief Goshen put a stop to it because they are Borough sanctioned events. The relinquishment of the COL to them is a relinquishment of control over the event because the Mayor and everyone else has to sign off on the permit. The event personnel will continue organize and staff the event but these are the core events that will remain with the Borough. For instance, if the parade committee would fold, another committee steps forward to take over, it is still a Borough event.

Mayor Bradley feels the Memorial Day Parade is most fitting for a Borough event. He looks at Winter Fest and Fall Fest in a similar manner. He is a huge fan of the Car Show, but the history of it is that it is a fundraising event and that is how Main Street Mount Joy deemed it because it raised money for itself. The Borough does not have a mechanism in place for money to be collected, brought in under the auspices of community fundraising for monies to be distributed in a non-profit fashion. If we had that mechanism, you could make that argument. Part of the cost of a fundraising event, is the cost of the Certificate. The Borough can provide support; extra staffing for traffic, give money for a plaque, etc. He feels we need to be very selective in choosing any of these events.

Councilor Fahndrich questioned if last year was the first year we carried the COL's. Chief Goshen acknowledged that we have done it in the past. What started this conversation was the Memorial Day committee wanted to use golf carts from Donegal Highlands who asked for a COL from the Borough naming them as the insured to cover their golf carts. She asked what our cost is for a COL; so far there is no cost; just the liability should something happen. All of this is why our insurance company asked if this was a Borough sanctioned or sponsored event. Borough Manager Pugliese explained that vendors have to obtain their own COL naming the Borough as an additional insured.

Mayor Bradley inquired as to whether or not there has been any conversation with the Borough Solicitor about what that difference in status would mean to our liability. If we move to doing it, do we expose the Borough to additional liability. There needs to be a process in place for potential new events; need to have a justification as to why you are going to deny an event. We should talk to our Solicitor. Councilor Fahndrich agreed.

Borough Manager Pugliese will add it to the Agenda and try to talk to the Solicitor, but keep in mind that this is a short week until the Council meeting.

Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council to consider the Borough covering the COL for the Memorial Day Parade; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Borough Manager Pugliese provided copies of letters that came today. MOU will be discussed in the Executive Session. The other two items, letters from Mount Joy Township and Conoy Township regarding MESA and what they feel is the unfair coverage of calls; not sure what their intent was. He will provide these letters in the Council packet. Also provided is a letter from the Police Officer's Association naming their bargaining committee. Councilor Fahndrich mentioned the Crime Watch packet to be added as well.

Councilor Eichler attended two fire foundation meetings; first one was to organize and the second was to elect officers as follows; Todd Kirkpatrick (Chair), Phil Colvin (Secretary), Jim Johns (Treasurer), and Dave Eichler (Assistant Chair). There was no potential conflict with Councilor Eichler serving on Council.

Councilor Eichler also mentioned that the pole lights, that are part of the train station project on Henry Street between Marietta and Market, two of the sixteen lights are working. They appear to be led lights. This is both a Public Works and Public Safety issue. Borough Manager Pugliese will look into it as to whether or not it is a PennDOT or Borough issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss personnel/legal matters at 19:51 Hrs. and ended at 20:19 Hrs. and no decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

At 20:20 Hrs. Councilor Eichler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis