

## **Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

**July 28, 2025**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:34 Hrs.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for July 28, 2025, as presented was made by Councilor Scordo; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented carried unanimously.

### **MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

- a. Review with possible motion on any change orders  
No change orders.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Dale Murray, 124 Farmington Way, discussed some issues with the new animal ordinance that was initiated in 2022. In November 2021, it was reported that you were engaged with Nobody's Cat Foundation and wanted to learn how the TNR program worked and agreed that the government has a role. There are multiple local people who can TNR and Heather Grady is an expert in this program. He has personally been a financial supporter of Heather's work over the years. In one week, she got twenty-two cats off the street. He would suggest the government's role could include paying for a TNR program. He and Heather are here tonight to talk about some of the changes that were made in the ordinance that have made the cat issue worse.

Heather Grady, 210 Mount Joy Street, reviewed her concerns about the new animal ordinance. Most of it is great, however, she spoke to Donegal Animal Hospital, and they will not collar a feral cat, and they do not offer a rabies tag for a cat. You get a certificate stating that the cat has been fixed. The clinics tip the left ear which automatically signifies that the cat has been fixed/spade and has its rabies vaccine, so that she would like to see that changed in the ordinance. There seems to be some misconceptions regarding the TNR program. Just last week, a friend of hers, who has done TNR in the past, received a violation letter stating she has done TNR which caused major issues for Heather. There wasn't a trap or food outside. This individual was a foster for Centerville Rescue who Heather teamed up with to help get the cats adopted. However, Centerville panicked when she received this letter. Heather had to go to her house and gather the six kittens and try to find fosters for them. So, the wording needs to be changed; not the number of animals, but needs to say, unless you are fostering for a reputable 501C3 rescue. Information was provided to Manager Pugliese regarding Nobody's Cats which was

distributed to the Committee. They are willing to work with the Borough; do a TNR clinic if we can organize a meeting to get people here who want to do the TNR work. TNR work cannot happen until the kitten is twelve weeks to three pounds. There is a list of the municipalities that they work with on the back.

Mayor Bradley explained that the citing came from Codes not the Police Department and should be discussed with the Codes Department. The other codes officer said something to the effect that someone was not TNRing that many cats but feeding thirty cats. That is the only detail he had about a letter. Words are interchangeable, you mention pets, feral, and free roaming cats. We have tried to balance out the folks that are complaining about free roaming cats that in a world of pet ownership, pets should be owned and kept on one's property. We don't allow dogs to roam freely, so why would we allow cats to roam free. When the term feral is used, that is a wild animal. There is another whole wild animal community that takes a very different stance on cats and that is the bird community. The Borough has tried to work very closely with Heather as someone who has some official status with cats. He will look at the information that has been handed out. By feeding, we are sustaining a population that the area cannot sustain without continual feeding. He has looked at research across the board from both cat advocates and the birder community. People do not want large cat colonies in their neighborhood. The number one spreader of rabies is feral cats, among other sicknesses. The work that you have done is critical and essential. We cannot take zero tolerance, but it needs to be regulated. It is a challenge for Codes, and they must work within the language so if the language needs to be tweaked to give them more guidance, then that is what needs to be done. Advocates on both sides have very strong opinions. From a public policy perspective, we must balance the interests of both groups in a responsible and manageable way.

Discussion continued at length. Councilor Fahndrich thanked Heather for her work.

David Drace, 318 Birchland Avenue, was upset that he received a non-violation notice about having thirty free roaming, feral cats. He has done TNR in the past. He has two cats and one dog; no idea where the incorrect information came from. Manager Pugliese will get a copy of the violation, address it and get back to him. Mayor Bradley explained that Codes fall under the Borough Manager.

Bruce Haigh, Public Works Committee, Florin Ward is here about Item 11g. It was discussed at Public Works about the possibility of adding an RRFP at Marietta Avenue and Henry Street and would like Chief Goshen's opinion on it. As you are aware, when the bridge at Marietta Avenue was reconstructed, they put the sidewalk on the east side. So, when you come down from Main Street and want to go south towards Marietta, you must either cross at the intersection of Main and Marietta or cross at Henry; there is a crosswalk there but no RRFP. His understanding of the estimated cost of the MTF was less than what the grant could be. He feels we should look at what we could do at that location.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes from April 28, 2025, Public Safety Committee Meeting as presented was made by Councilor Scordo; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes from April 28, 2025, Public Safety Committee meeting has been approved. Note: No meeting was held in May or June.

## **FDMJ REPORT**

FDMJ Chief Brett Hamm presented his report for June which was included in the packet; April and May reports were in the packet as well. They responded to thirty-nine calls for the month of June 2025. Of the calls, twenty-five were first due alarms; eleven in the Borough, eleven in Rapho Township, one in Mount Joy Township and two in East Donegal Township and fourteen mutual aid calls. Time in service was twenty-two hours and fifty-four minutes. They averaged 8.49 members per call for the month. The average response time in June was four minutes and thirty-one seconds with an average arrival time to the scene of seven minutes and forty-two seconds. Total training for the month was one hundred members trained for a total of three hundred thirty-seven hours for June. There was one notable first due call which was a trash compactor resulting in a \$10K loss and Rapho Township had a commercial vehicle fire on 283. They did a fire prevention discussion at the library with approximately thirty-four children and half as many parents. The fire police assisted with traffic control at the Summer Solstice. They had standard meetings. The new traffic and utility units were put in service a week ago. July has been a challenging month with the flooding and the day after. Sixty to seventy calls were public service calls for flooding.

## **EMA REPORT**

Phil Colvin reviewed his summary report for June which was included in the packet and distributed an updated one to the Committee. The Summer Solstice and Cruising Car Cuisine Event Support Plans were completed and distributed. We received over seven inches of rain in parts of the Borough. The EOC was activated at the fire station. They had several council members, Mayor Bradley and Jill Frey present during the flooding, which was quite helpful to speed things along. Bill Hall was instrumental in getting everyone there and the Borough approval. The recommended emergency disaster declaration expired on July 21, 2025. That amount of rain in a short period of time, overwhelmed the storm sewer system. He did receive some calls for assistance and was able to get some from Lancaster County VOAD, a volunteer organization that helps with basic cleanout. He ran into some issues with that but is going to try to work with some of the local churches here to create a network of people that if someone needs help, they can reach out. Hopefully the church can help muster up some people to assist. This is not something the fire department can take on. In speaking with the Florin Church of the Brethren, they were very receptive so he thinks it will work out.

Mayor Bradley explained that during the storm of 2018 and this storm, some residents were assisted by Lancaster Mennonite Disaster Services, so they are another available resource. It is very helpful that Brian Ebersole of Ebersole Construction is involved with Lancaster Mennonite Disaster Services, so he is a good connection. There are certain qualifiers that one needs to go through for their community to approve that assistance.

Councilor Fahndrich inquired about the car show. Phil said he received an email from Ferne Silberman today and she said there were a couple little things that they had dealt with. Mayor Bradley mentioned that over the last two events, one of the things that has been a work in progress is that we initiated that if they have tents, they must have forty-pound weights per leg, so we continue to work through compliance of that issue.

## **PSH LIFE LION REPORT**

Kimberly Keane, Penn State Health Life Lion, was in attendance and reviewed the report for June. Call volumes increased in June/July due to water rescues; many were held over to assist. Staffing is good; three paramedics completed their training and orientation.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. FDMJ Long Term Funding & Sustainability**

Borough Manager Pugliese spoke with Rapho Township Manager to discuss sustainability. He agreed to a meeting with them, East Donegal and Mount Joy Township. In talking with President Hall, one of the three surrounding municipalities is under the threshold of what they should be contributing. Mayor Bradley explained that in addition to funding and sustainability, the Borough is most concerned about the funding and sustainability of fire protection. We don't know what it is going to look like in ten to fifteen years. He is also concerned about short-term funding and sustainability. Mayor Bradley reiterated that the Police Department will provide their budget in September for first review and October for second review and would like FDMJ and EMA to set their timeline. Phil Colvin has targeted September for his review of the EMA budget.

Phil Colvin discussed that the request for the stipend program is putting the cart before the horse. Anyone who wants a stipend program must present the program first, not just request \$80k. He is willing to get together to discuss long term funding and sustainability, but each municipality needs to determine the level of service; all volunteer; half volunteer/half full paid; fully paid. You have the numbers now to fund a volunteer organization, but this is where Council needs to decide what level of service is wanted, i.e. how quickly do you want the fire department to respond, how many people, their level of capabilities to handle the incident. He is more than happy to be involved in the conversations and get the information the Borough is looking for or have a separate committee to look into it and talk about those things, i.e., level of service, etc.

Manager Pugliese explained that they had set aside in the budget a stipend of \$200.00. Chief Hamm explained that once the list was scrubbed, there were approximately twenty-one members but according to the ordinance, the application deadline was April 1<sup>st</sup> to turn it into this Committee.

Chief Hamm fully supports what Phil said, and the question becomes where short-term stops, and long term begins. The short-term goal should be whatever we can do to prolong the volunteer fire service that benefits the community at large because it is a more economical model compared to a combination of part volunteer/part paid or fully paid, those numbers are going to go up significantly. His question is as the Fire Chief, when you talk about other municipalities, specifically what FDMJ serves, what type of feedback does the Borough get to the question of 'are you willing to sit down and start having some conversations about long term planning for the future of fire service'. Their buy-in is critical in whatever model you go with.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. MAW Convoy Discussion with Possible Motion**

Chief Goshen explained that this year's convoy was the most dangerous and unsafe. There were many near misses this year and this has been coming to a head. To give you some background, Manheim Fire, Mastersonville, Pennryn, West Earl, Londonderry Township, Hempfield Fire, Bainbridge Fire, Elizabethtown Fire, FDMJ, Columbia Fire all supplied fire police to do traffic control. Northwest Regional Police Department also provided battery boxes as does the Borough to facilitate the convoy. Initially when they came to the Borough on Mother's Day 2021, during COVID year, truck numbers and turnout were low; Mother's Day 2022, one of my officers was nearly struck trying to navigate the trucks, because they blatantly ignored the officers and as well as the fire police directives. An officer nearly rolled up on a car from an impatient motorist trying to get through; Mother's Day 2023 another officer had the same scenario and there were three traffic accidents in Mount Joy Township (Cloverleaf and 283); and then last year, 2024 a fire police was nearly struck on Angle Street and another one was nearly run over on New Haven Street. There was a hit and run and a traffic accident during the event in the 100 block of Manheim Street and traffic accident in the 500 block of West Main Street and one on Delta Street; all because of this convoy. Previous years, the traffic signals were switched to flashing to help facilitate the convoy which led to higher speeds and more near misses. This year, the trucks were to adhere to the traffic lights to lessen the speed, but most ignored the red lights. The officers were scrambling to control them. In our Borough, we have nine traffic lights that we must maintain. Additionally, there are thirty-seven major crossovers that are not controlled by traffic lights and that does not include alleys, driveways and parking lots that come out onto Main Street. Chief Goshen explained that this event far exceeds the resources the Borough can provide, not just from a police standpoint but, we have ten agencies that provide fire police. If there is a critical incident, there is nobody to go. Last year and the previous year, we approached the executive committee of Make-a-Wish about evaluating and changing the route. We brought all the safety issues, not just the Borough's. This year after this mess, we wanted to attend the after-action meeting, and they refused to allow any of us to attend. He reached out to the director privately and was still denied and was told to email any concerns and they would evaluate and let us know what they decide. The results of the after-action meeting are as follows: what went well – strong fire police coordination despite the chaos and not being told the convoy had started, they responded quickly; dedicated personnel; quick thinking on the emergent problem spots and crews adapting quickly with limited resources; road closures were beneficial. Safety record – despite multiple near miss scenarios, there were no major incidents or injuries reported; 283 eastbound exit closure – most motorists disobeyed this closure, but this still significantly reduced much of the cross traffic from Cloverleaf. What did not go well – they acknowledged the gaps were severe and frequent; over 600 trucks this year which was larger than previous years that contributed to confusion, congestion and safety risks; traffic chaos at Cloverleaf and 283; multiple incomplete stoppages; one fire police reported that there were over 214 non-convoy vehicles mingling in the convoy stream; communication gaps as the fire police were not notified when the convoy started or where the end of it was; the 283 ramp closure that drivers ignored; no law enforcement support stating critical lack of police presence created vulnerabilities. One of their suggestions was to reverse the

direction of the convoy. Chief Goshen does not feel it would change the inherent safety problems that we have in the Borough. Financially, Chief Goshen must put three officers at a minimum of five hours but to hit all the lights, he would need nine officers at a cost to the Borough of almost \$4k, that does not include fire police, equipment, etc. They wanted more message boards; the police department does not have them. Chief Goshen appreciates the benevolent organization and the great work, but they have vastly overgrown their footprint. Chief Goshen would like to notify them now that they cannot run the event through Mount Joy Borough but would help facilitate another route. Since this was held on a Saturday, businesses were livid. People could not get in/out of the businesses. A couple of the larger businesses in the west end of town closed early because of that reason. The Memorial Day parade is two hours; this convoy is a little over three hours.

Mayor Bradley's concerned that any organization that would not allow a municipality that was involved in the convoy to participate in the meeting does not reflect a spirit of cooperation, collaboration and certainly is not the way an after-action meeting should take place; that is a deal breaker for him. At a minimum, if this convoy continues in the Borough, we will be part of the process. We do not work for them. The current situation is unsustainable.

Councilor Fahndrich made a motion to move to full Council to discuss the level of participation of Mount Joy Borough in the 2026 Make-A-Wish Foundation event; seconded by Councilor Scordo. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Ginger Goudie 5K – October 4, 2025

Same route as last year; advisement only.

c. Road Study – Marietta Avenue between School Lane & New Haven Street

This parking study was requested by Mayor Bradley and was reviewed in detail. There is no prohibition for parking anywhere along this portion of the route from Marietta Avenue, yet when you get into Mount Joy Borough, there is a prohibition for parking on the south side of Marietta Avenue, and he does not understand why there is prohibition in certain areas and some not in more dangerous areas. The Committee agreed with the recommendation and would like Chief Goshen and Manager Pugliese to adopt the parking restrictions as outlined in the parking study.

d. Event Rest Facilities

Mayor Bradley wanted to have a standard to address restroom facilities for Borough events which was included in the packet. For future events, part of the approval process in addition to tent weights, restroom guidance will be provided, which includes signage that must be placed outside a public facility for the restroom to be considered, i.e. church, business, etc.

e. E-bike Ordinance Update

Chief Goshen is in the process of working on an ordinance for E-bikes. Unfortunately, SB692 never made it out of Committee. He was hoping this would be in place. In absence of that, he has been looking at other municipalities to see what is out there. We are going to move forward and see if we can come up with something that works for

the Borough. DCNR has a law in place for rails to trails. New Jersey has a robust ordinance. A lot of the restrictions as it pertains to bikes in general revolves around the downtown investment district; it is not Borough or Township-wide restrictions. He is looking at the commercial business district for the tight restrictions and would loosen it up outside the business district. Mayor Bradley said that we would allow very young children to ride bicycles in the business district. Chief Goshen concurred, stating that there would be an age component that would be plugged into it.

- f. Acknowledge Receipt of Firemen's Relief Association Compliance Audit for January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

Manager Pugliese explained that this Audit came out in July and it referenced FDMJ did not have an equipment inventory. He reached out to Phil Colvin who explained that they do have an equipment inventory. Manager Pugliese reached out to Matt Kratz who emailed him today stating that they started using new software at the beginning of the year, which is not compatible with FDMJ's First Due software, so their inventory did not transfer. They have an inventory; this is just an administrative issue. Brett explained that when they decided to go with First Due, it was understood that the Fire Commission was going to be utilizing the same software. However, they changed their mind, and they are using something else. Phil explained that they will need to replace their First Due software with something that is compatible.

- g. 2025 MTF Project Locations Review

Manager Pugliese reviewed the list of items/locations. At this point, the cost is \$675K (out of the \$750K threshold) without the railing so the crosswalk at Marietta Avenue and Henry Street that Councilor Haigh suggested is possible. The grant is due on Thursday. Mayor Bradley is not opposed to the recommendation but wanted Manager Pugliese to look at other options in that vicinity. Since it is a multimodal grant, it should strengthen it due to the proximity to Amtrak. Chief Goshen will look at it tomorrow. Manager Pugliese explained that PennDOT frowns upon mid-block crosswalks and any place we put it, both sides will need ADA ramps.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

#### **ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

Councilor Fahndrich welcomed the new member, Councilor Scordo.

Chief Goshen briefly reviewed the Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Pedestrian Enforcement that are covered with grant money. The Pedestrian wave is still just educational. He is cautiously optimistic that next year it will no longer be just an educational encounter, but enforcement/citations as well. Mayor Bradley reiterated that lots of contacts were made but not everything is captured in a report that just shows citations because the Borough has decided that both education and enforcement are important.

Manager Pugliese explained that he received an email today from the Manor Township Manager basically looking for a letter from the Borough in support of Central Booking at the

new correctional facility. Chief Goshen is chair of the committee. The County is looking for a business plan which we don't feel is appropriate for the end user (Chiefs of Police) to dictate a business plan to the Commissioners. From the Chief of Police Association standpoint, unilaterally, the Chiefs are not entertaining any contributory funding for Central Processing, like what the County tried to do with the Drug Task Force. This must be funded solely with County funds. However, if the Borough wants to make some financial contribution, that is something you need to discuss. Chief Goshen is looking to use a grant to get Livescan in our new facility, as the location of the new correctional facility does not benefit us, serious time issue. Processing our 'customers' is a very small piece of what Central Processing handles. The bigger issue is servicing warrants, which is something we don't do right now. Central Processing will be able to handle the volume and the time factor since they are open 24/7. Chief Goshen would like you to express your support as it is something that is needed in the County. In support of it are the Chiefs, DA's Office, Probation and Parole, Bail Admin, Court Admin, Court of Common Pleas, all the Magistrates.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS**

An Executive Session was not held.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 21:17 Hrs. Councilor Scordo made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis