

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:30 Hrs.

ROLL CALL

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for November 24, 2025, as presented was made by Councilor Scordo; seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented carried unanimously.

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

- a. Review with possible motion on any change orders
There were no change orders that were approved or need to be approved at this time.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Brett Hamm presented his report for October which was included in the packet. They responded to fifty-four calls for the month of October 2025. Of the calls, forty were first due alarms; sixteen in Mount Joy Borough, fourteen in Rapho Township, four in Mount Joy Township and six in East Donegal Township and fourteen mutual aid calls. They averaged 8.74 members per call for the month of October. The average response time in October was five minutes and seven seconds with an average arrival time to the scene of six minutes and one second. Total training for the month was ninety-four members trained for a total of two hundred sixty-six hours for October. There was no notable first due calls in the Borough. Community service included Mount Joy Borough Spooktacular, Trick or Treat and LCBC Trunk or

Treat. Fire police provided traffic control for two Donegal High School football games, Janus School 5K Event and the Manheim Farm Show. Regarding the radio replacement project, they just placed the final order for the radios that they will swap out with the fire police.

EMA REPORT

Phil Colvin reviewed his summary report for October which was included in the packet. Still no update from County on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Attended planning meeting for 2025 Winterfest event and will distribute the plan shortly. Two of the three weather stations that the Borough purchased are in and he will work with Public Works on installation (Public Works shed on the west end of town) and the compost site. When the third one comes in, it will probably be installed at the fire station or somewhere close to town. It will give live real time data; big piece of information will be the rainfall.

PSH LIFE LION REPORT

John Shuck, Penn State Life Lion EMS Manager, was in attendance to review the report for October which was included in the packet. He was assigned to Lancaster County about two months ago to improve their systems. He is from Berks County and managed their system for fifteen plus years and before that worked for a nonprofit for twenty-five years as a manager. They have gone through a reorganization at the administrative level. Keith McMinn is the Director and will be the primary contact. They have five new employees in Orientation and five are waiting to start, so the staff is building. Call volume dipped in October but anticipate higher numbers with the upcoming cold and flu season. Mutual aid dropped considerably due to optimizing where crews are located and how staff is scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS

a. FDMJ Long Term Funding & Sustainability

Manager Pugliese was not present so nothing new to report.

Councilor Eichler attended the Foundation Meeting, and they have now established a QR code on the website for donations and funeral homes in the area will now have a tabletop display for anyone wishing to donate.

Councilor Fahndrich inquired about whether the Standards of Cover from the Strategic Planning Committee are still being met. Phil Colvin reported that they are still tracking it and deciding if it is the right fit or not. We came up with the Standards of Cover, but it really needs to come from the other municipalities and what do they want, as we are providing the service on behalf of the Borough. They hope to have a committee meeting in December and that is one of the things they plan to discuss.

Mayor Bradley questioned how do you reconcile different Standards of Cover for the different municipalities that you protect if they are municipally generated? Phil would hope the municipalities would coordinate under one, which would be ideal. But there may be one for the townships that are more rural areas than in the Borough, i.e. drive time. Mayor Bradley explained that is one of the reasons for the push to start the conversation, rural vs urbanized response. There needs to be consistency. It is not

Mount Joy's fire department that is providing service to everybody else and being reimbursed by surrounding municipalities; we provide first due coverage.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Task Force Model MOA Proposal

Chief Goshen reviewed the MOA which is also referred to as 287 (g) Agreement with ICE Enforcement. There are three models to choose from, this is the Task Officer model, which is the most restrictive one. Within the MOA and with speaking to the Regional Director, the expectation would be that we would serve Federal criminal warrants only, not administrative ones. That is a huge difference from what is played out in the media. Quite simply, if you come into the Country illegally, you don't have a point of entry, you commit a misdemeanor under the Federal law. However, the only person that can make that determination is a judge. So, if you are suspected of doing that, the ICE agent can issue an administrative warrant which means 'I think you broke the law' based on interviews and conversations and then they are compelled to take you before the Immigration Judge who makes the final determination as to whether or not your activity was criminal. This is not to be confused with individuals who have come through the proper point of entry and were issued a VISA, whether it be a work or education VISA. Someone who overstays a VISA is not criminal in behavior, but rather administrative behavior, because that is an agreement with the court system, so we would not be engaged in that warrant service. For those that are not familiar with law enforcement actions, currently if we conduct a traffic stop and we are presented with a driver's license from Canada, we are not permitted to ask if they have a VISA or passport because we would be inquiring about their citizenship and we are not permitted to do that. Moving into being a Task Force Officer, we can ask that next question 'do you have a passport, do you have a VISA'. Based on those responses, it allows us to contact an ICE agent for directions and that is simply 'do they want to take custody or not'. The agreement is they would have to be able to respond within one hour to take custody. It does not give us the ability to stop someone arbitrarily other than for a lawful investigation. We cannot manufacture a reason to stop somebody. We cannot go into any of our local employers to inquire about citizenship. ICE will not support it and will terminate the MOA immediately. That is a clear violation. This is setting up a lot of intelligence that we can gather, additionally it is the criminal warrants that they are looking for us to serve so it is individuals who have already been determined to have broken Federal or State law. Those are the individuals we would be requested to get. The other aspect that made me consider doing this is, we are already doing this right now. Everyone we stop, regardless of circumstances, is checked for wants and warrants. We check in every database too; this is just setting up a two-way line of communication that they can now communicate with us if there is someone in our area that has a warrant. For participation, for each Task Force Officer, they will reimburse us \$7500. After we complete the first arrest for one of their criminal warrants that they send to us, they will reimburse us \$100,000, and the money doesn't come with any type of hooks or different reporting aspects other than we must establish their documentation that we follow all their rules and that is overseen by ICE. There is always going to be that constant umbrella of ICE over us. By doing that, we are covered liability wise through ICE because we would be operating under Federal guidelines, so the Borough is isolated from any potential litigation. That is the first year, going into it, they

also offer Task Force Officer salary offset and what they are prepared to do is reimburse the Agency the annual salary and benefits of each eligible Task Force Officer, and they will cover the overtime wages up to 25% of the officer's salary, so it is very lucrative in the amount of money they are willing to pay for this. As I stated, I am not at all interested in or would engage in behavior of any officer to arbitrarily go on a hunt for individuals based on what they thought was a violation. They must provide us with paperwork establishing that someone is wanted to go and pick them up. Also with the MOA, at any time either party can walk away from it but must give the other side forty-eight hours' notice. So, we are not bound by it. Even after speaking to the Regional Director, even after receiving the payments, if we choose to terminate the MOA, we are not obligated to return any money. Chief Goshen's thoughts were for your consideration, to have one officer set about the process of going through the training which is rather extensive. It is all online and about forty hours' worth of coursework. ICE pays for everything. Upon that completion, we can see how it works so it isn't a big switch. So, if we are comfortable with what the officer is engaging in, we must submit reports on our activities. If we are comfortable with the process and we are not veering off from what we currently do, we can expand on it and bring on more officers who will need to complete the same training. We can terminate the agreement at any time. There are over 120K warrants in Lancaster County. At the beginning of the year, there were 96K warrants so the number is growing. Northwest Regional, Susquehanna Regional, Manheim Borough, Manor Township, Quarryville, Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney Office are all part of the program, and there are three others that are starting the onboarding process. Essentially every police department around us is already doing it. Chief Goshen has spoken to both the Chiefs and Task Force Officers of the ones that are doing it and said there are very tight guardrails on it.

Mayor Bradley questioned why only one officer as opposed to the entire department which was discussed. Councilor Eicher agreed to train as many officers as possible on a voluntary basis.

Councilor Fahndrich inquired about how one officer would be chosen. Councilor Fahndrich reiterated that we are not hunting but rather responding to ICE requests. Chief Goshen confirmed that ICE will tell us who to look for who has a criminal Federal warrant and has been given due process. We will be provided with the name of the individual who has a warrant and last known residence.

Councilor Scordo wanted further clarification on the administrative warrants which Chief Goshen provided. This MOA is not Pennsylvania specific. They are putting in a mechanism to address the administrative warrants, but he sees it as very remote that it would happen, however, the way the MOA is written we can step away from it if that is something we don't want to do. The Regional Director made it very clear that if at any point we were uncomfortable with some of the interactions, he wants to be called right away not only for clarity but to watch over what his agents are doing as well. Councilor Scordo questioned the liability portion of the MOA. Chief Goshen explained that in sticking with the criminal warrants we are firmly isolated against fourth amendment violations which was Chief Goshen's concern which is why he is staying in the criminal realm.

Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council on December 1, 2025, the Task Force Model Memorandum Of Agreement proposal for consideration; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried with Councilors Fahndrich and Eichler voting Yes; Councilor Scordo voting No.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

The Committee went into an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 19:24 Hrs. and ended at 19:26 Hrs.

ADJOURNMENT

At 19:26 Hrs. Councilor Eichler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Scordo. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis