

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Eichler at 18:33 Hrs.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Councilor Eichler, Councilor Kark, Councilor Hollcraft, Mayor Bradley, Chief Goshen and Borough Manager Pugliese (via Zoom).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for January 26, 2026, as presented was made by Councilor Kark; second by Councilor Hollcraft. 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. Josh Deering said that even with the snow delays, the building is still on track for March 22, 2026, completion date.

PUBLIC INPUT – Any Borough Resident or Borough Property Owner

Public comment consisted of several residents and/or property owners voicing their discontent with the Borough agreeing to sign the MOA with ICE. Some of the comments/concerns raised consisted of: ICE does not align with our Police Department Mission Statement; does not want ICE activity in the Borough; feels like the monetary incentives are more like a bounty hunter approach; wants to see the MOA rescinded; thinks the MOA is binding and may have legal ramifications; feels information was not presented in clarity and needs to be re-introduced; interested in the scope of the problem in the Borough; wanted to know if the Borough insurance covers liability should something happen; fearful that family will be targeted; believes it will stress community trust; questioned how we are using the money; thinks it is a distraction; thinks ICE will push out local PD and take control; wanted to read the MOA; does not feel ICE has respect for the law; feels the path to citizenship is difficult; would like the MOA put back on Council Agenda; not in the best interest of the town.

There were a few individuals in attendance who supported the Police Department in cooperating with ICE to get the criminals out of the Borough.

Mayor Bradley explained that the MOA discussion originated at the November Public Safety Committee Meeting and was moved to Council in December, but due to the Chief being out of

town, it was moved to the January meeting. Two of the original committee members are no longer on Council so there was a transition during the timeframe. Also, in December, the Public Safety Committee Meeting was cancelled, which would have been the time to approve the November minutes, so it was not intentional, the meeting did not occur as it was cancelled by the Chairperson which means that those minutes were only approved this evening. Unfortunately, the delay would have given more time for people to be informed but because of the way the events played out, that did not happen. In terms of documents that were or were not in the packet, it did not affect him since he attended a previous Public Safety Meeting. He applauded everyone in attendance and commented that you have added much context to the conversation and felt the dialogue was important. Essentially, what we have talked about when it comes to crimes, we were very specific in our conversation that we were only interested in participating with criminal warrants which means a deportation Judge has heard the case and has said the person can be deported. We had no interest at all in engaging in administrative warrants. The other question was severability, and should we get pushed to do more than that, we can sever the relationship. There is a bit of recognition that regardless of whether Mount Joy Borough was involved in the process or not involved in the process, that has no bearing as to whether ICE is going to come in or not come into the community. All those things were part of the discussion. The original plan was to only train the Chief and two Sergeants. The MOA will be discussed again at Council. It will be clearly articulated on future Agendas.

Chief Goshen was glad that everyone came out and hopes to answer all your questions. He explained that ICE has been operating here in this area for over one year and we have been assisting them. Assisting means that what I stipulated to and stand by now is they must have a criminal warrant. For me, that is just not an order of deportation, they also must have violated state or local law which means there is an AOPC (Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts) warrant in place. That keeps both the Borough and myself within the fourth amendment and touches on the liability question that was raised. We must have a tangible document that has been signed by a Judge that authorizes us to take custody of that individual. That is what I rely on, what I am interested in doing and is all I am permitting the officers to do. That keeps the community safe. Unfortunately, some of the individuals involved, because of their immigration status, are extraordinarily transient, so I don't know that they are here, and I do not think that any of you know if they are here either. For the past three months, we have been presented with a warrant for an individual who had three charges for attempting to lure a child into a car. We had another individual that had eight counts of battery in the first degree, which in Pennsylvania is considered aggravated assault. I think everyone in this room would agree that we do not want these types of individuals in our community. If there are arrest warrants for them, your expectation is that the police department is going to arrest them and hold them accountable. That is what we want to do. I do not get access to that database without the MOA. In other words, it becomes a catch game; if I or my officers happen to bump into them and they are entered into the CLEAN/NCIC, we can identify these individuals and remove them. So, everyone in this room is aware, I have not signed the MOA yet. Part of the reason I have not yet signed is I rely on the echo. And when I look around and see that Susquehanna Regional did this last year, Manheim Borough has done it, Northwest Regional has done it and there has not been any outcry and not a crowd even close to this area, I am concerned as to what the community feels over there. So, when we went through the process, as much as you feel it was not clear, it was available for ninety days. And this is what I was hoping for; this is what I want to hear because much of it is miscommunication and perception of what we see on TV and what different media outlets push of everyone else's agenda and

narrative, then you guys deserve to know what we are going to do. I need to hear this. Currently, the MOAs that are online are being rewritten so I do not have access to them. When I spoke to our liaison, I made it abundantly clear to him that we are not doing administrative warrants. I believe it is a violation of the fourteenth Amendment. I believe it is a violation of the fourth Amendment. I do not want to go down that road at all. But I do want to keep everyone in this room safe. To do that, I need to know who is on it. Yes, they passed through here. If you think there is a bubble around this Borough that keeps bad people out, there is not. Five years ago, we had an illegal immigrant who nearly killed his brother fled to Honduras and came back two years later. There are good immigrants. But at the end of the day, regardless of who you are, where you are from, what you believe, who you worship, if you have a criminal warrant, we have an understanding with the law that we are colorblind and we are going to serve it, and that is what I am hanging my hat on. As far as the concern over transports, the only transports I am willing to do are to Lancaster County Prison and that is what we do for anyone else who has a warrant. And yes, the prison is cooperating with them. They are allowing careful, safe transport within their facility and that is how it should be. It should not be a fist fight out in the middle of the street where sensationalism can pour in and then it becomes, is there a valid reason for them to serve the warrant or not; are they there for an administrative warrant, which I can tell, many of you take issue with that, as I do, or is it a criminal warrant. We do not always get that when we watch TV but if they are in prison, they are there for a criminal warrant; not just for being illegal. That is the safe place for a transfer of custody to occur. Please understand I like hearing the feedback; even the stuff I do not like to hear, I still want to hear it because it forms my perception of how the community wants to be operated, managed and policed. So, I am not signing the MOA tomorrow. I am more than willing to wait until everyone has a chance to sit with me. I have already met with the Rotary Club to address their concerns; I do not have a problem with that. I encourage all of you to reach out. My telephone number is published so by all means, call me. If you want to come in and sit down, you are more than welcome to do so. My schedule might get a little packed. We will make sure that everyone is aware what is going to be on the Agenda. He explained the difference between a criminal and an administrative warrant. An administrative warrant is basically someone in the country illegally, some of you think that comes from appearance, lack of command of the English language, or maybe how you dress, but an ICE agent has the ability to interrogate to develop reasonable suspicion and then he can sign what is called an administrative warrant which gives him the authority to take an individual into custody and before an immigration Judge who then pairs them with a lawyer and subsequently there is a hearing to determine how they came into the country. Now the individual must be questioned and has the right to not tell anything about themselves. Chief Goshen does not agree with that because it puts law enforcement in a bad position of being judge and jury; that is the liability issue. A criminal warrant means someone has already been identified, we know who you are, we have your finger and palm prints, your photograph, you have already been presented with a lawyer, you had an opportunity to speak to a judge, the Judge has determined there are deportation orders and they have violated state or local law so you there is an AOPC warrant. For those of you who are not schooled up on Visas, there are over 182 types of Visas, but the two big ones in our area are Agricultural (H-2A) and Seasonal (H-2B). He has spoken to many stake holders at length who support our efforts because they go to Mexico and Honduras and they sponsor their employees and help them gain their Visa/green card to come to work here legally. Additionally, their employees know our police officers are not going to hassle them. Out of those 182 Visas there are approximately 45 Visas that anybody can start on the pathway to citizenship. To give you a couple, there is a 1R-1 (spouse citizen), CR-2 (conditional spouse), K-3 (pending spouse), K-1

(fiancé spouse), 1R-2 (family member), CR-2 (conditional family member), F-4 (siblings) and EW (unskilled worker). There are 65,000 of those Visas but from a law enforcement perspective, it is frustrating to me that there are only six immigration attorneys in the area; one in Harrisburg, one in Ephrata and four in Lancaster City, and of those, only four speak Spanish. People think that it is too hard or confusing to find a pathway to citizenship, but it is not. The tough part is finding a front door to start the process. In speaking with attorneys that deal specifically with the immigration process, when someone gets picked up and goes before the Judge and they tell him they came here illegally but I have been working here the past five years, got married, own a home, the Judge gives them two choices; start this pathway for a Visa or you will be deported. Chief Goshen would like to see some of our community partners start smoothing the pathway to get to those immigration attorneys. Chief Goshen does not like the idea of ICE coming into our area and not knowing about it. He does not have the ability to tell them no; the Borough does not either. If they want to come in, they are going to come in, but he would prefer that if there were criminal warrants that they give them to him and his agency and that we are the ones knocking on doors and making contact, because we know them. We know that some of the ICE officers are not trained very well so he cannot vouch for them. He does not know their background. He can control his own officers; he knows them. It is a delicate line to walk. There is not an area where they are going to come with 200 or 300 agents and bulldoze their way in; they are not going to do that. And to the concern of bulldozing, regardless of whether this document is in place or not, Mayor Bradley explained if they are going to come and bulldoze, they are going to come and bulldoze which is one of the things that we wanted to make sure is that they would not be able to come in and force us to do things in the agreement that we were not comfortable doing which is why there was a conversation about severability. Chief Goshen anticipates that the MOA, if/once it is revised, will be discussed at the March Public Safety Committee Meeting. But he is NOT signing the MOA until everyone is heard and we gain more clarity. Chief Goshen provided his email address to all Borough residents and property owners to reach out to him if they wanted to discuss the issue further. He reiterated that we are working with ICE right now. They are giving us those criminal warrants, so if you see an ICE jacket, they better have a Mount Joy police officer with them. Mayor Bradley asked Chief Goshen to explain how it is different after the MOA is signed. Chief Goshen explained that the MOA allows us to get into their database so essentially the warrants we got were based on information that they received that those individuals were in the Borough. Access to their database gives him the ability to cross reference our database and we can go after that individual who has a criminal warrant and arrest them. Right now, those databases do not talk to each other. Call me if you see an ICE agent without a Mount Joy police officer with them, but ultimately, we do have any authority over an ICE agent. Signing the MOA would allow us to get the criminal warrant ourselves and the ICE agent would not have to come with us, which is what he prefers because of the administrative warrant issue. He would prefer that we have the criminal warrant in our hand, that we have vetted and we go looking rather than have someone beside us not playing by the same game book. Mayor Bradley explained that what you are seeing from the regional representative is a desire to cooperate with the local police departments as much as possible in adhering to the criteria that the Chief is setting forth because they have so many criminal warrants to serve. By signing the MOA, it just gives us much more control.

Councilor Hollcraft questioned the 120,000 warrants in Lancaster County and wanted to know if they were criminal warrants. Chief Goshen explained that they are non-traffic, criminal warrants, not immigrant warrants, i.e. disorderly conducts, public drunkenness, etc. There are

about 80,000 traffic warrants. These are not ICE warrants. If you do happen to get into the Task Force MOA, look at Section 11, ICE Supervision, fourth paragraph, in other words, it is our decision what we do, how we do it, when we do it and in the way we are going to apply that. Council has that so if we ever go down that road, those are the guardrails.

Discussion on LNP's reporting that Mount Joy Borough Police is the latest agency to partner with ICE. The MOA signing was approved at Council but was never executed, so what was reported is not correct.

A resident raised a question about warrants, judicial and criminal warrants specifically. Chief Goshen previously covered administrative warrants. The next issue is what is criminal and what is judicial and they both get used interchangeably. When you see a Judge and he makes the decision on an order to deport, the crime you are found guilty of is Improper Entry by Alien, (8 U.S. Code §1325), which means you came into the country outside an authorized port of entry. The Judge determines if you are guilty. If you are found guilty and it is your first offense, it is a misdemeanor. That is the criminal violation from the federal court side. If you do it a second time, it is a felony. So, it is criminal although they utilize judicial because there is not a jury within the immigration court system. That is where the judicial comes from. In addition to that, Chief Goshen is looking to see if they have an additional warrant that is issued by either local, state or federal authority. The other violation is called Unlawful Presence. If you came through an authorized port of entry the correct way and were issued a Visa, but you overstayed your Visa, that is what that means and is purely administrative and the police have nothing to do with that. It is not a crime. As far as the compensatory part of the task force online, do not look at it through the lens of Mount Joy, this was created to fit fifty states and a couple of territories. For example, we cannot arrest someone on site because Mount Joy Borough is not in Texas, so we do not see anyone crossing the border, but it is in the MOA. The other part in the MOA is either party can sever the relationship; just must give the other party forty-eight-hour notice.

Surrounding areas that have discontinued working with ICE were discussed and a list was being sent to Chief Goshen to review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Kark questioned whether he could approve the Minutes if he never attended the meeting. Mayor Bradley explained that he could. A motion to approve the Minutes from November 24, 2025, Public Safety Committee Meeting as presented was made by Councilor Kark; second by Councilor Hollcraft. Motion carried unanimously. The Minutes from November 24, 2025, Public Safety Committee meeting have been approved.

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Brett Hamm presented his reports for November, December and the annual which were included in the packet. They responded to thirty-four calls for the month of November 2025. Of the calls, twenty-one were first due alarms; nine in Mount Joy Borough, eight in Rapho Township, two in Mount Joy Township and two in East Donegal Township. They averaged 8.88 members per call for the month of November. The average response time in November was 04:46 with an average arrival time to the scene of 06:52. They responded to sixty-three calls for the month of December 2025. Of the calls, thirty-eight were first due alarms; fifteen in Mount

Joy Borough, eighteen in Rapho Township, one in Mount Joy Township and four in East Donegal Township. They averaged 8.37 members per call for the month of December. The average response time in December was 05:05 with an average arrival time to the scene of 06:35. There were five hundred eighty-eight calls for 2025. Of the calls, four hundred and seven were first due alarms; one hundred eighty-four in Mount Joy Borough, one hundred forty-eight in Rapho Township, thirty-one in Mount Joy Township and forty-four in East Donegal Township. They averaged 8.73 members per call; average response time was 04:46 and average time to the scene was 06:41 for 2025. A policy change/letter is in the packet that covers minor changes to the box alarms. An explanation of box alarms was provided to the new Councilors.

Councilor Eichler inquired about recruitment. Chief Hamm said recruitment was sporadic and they need to focus more on retention. Councilor Eichler appreciates and thanks the volunteer staff and their professionalism.

EMA REPORT

Phil Colvin welcomed the new Councilors to the committee. He reviewed his summary reports for the period of 11/24/25 to 12/19/25 and 12/20/25 to 01/26/26 which were included in the packet. Still no update from County on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He will be working with Public Works to install the weather stations that have come about because of the flood this summer. Some installations may need to wait until spring. There will be a total of three; one at the Public Works facility at the west end of town, one at the fire station and one at the compost site. No significant events due to the snow. They are clearing Main Street tonight; Main Street from New Haven to Lefever Streets is closed. Sidewalks must be cleared twenty-four hours after the storm ends. They are planning on dropping the snow emergency tomorrow morning and let the disaster declaration expire on its own, which goes away after seven days unless extended by Council.

PSH LIFE LION REPORT

No one from Penn State Health Life Lion was in attendance; however, the report was included in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Review of E-bike ordinance with Solicitor's comments

Councilor Hollcraft questioned the bike ordinance and bike licenses. Chief Goshen explained the history behind the ordinance. There was a discussion regarding the ordinance and the duplication of the vehicle definition. Councilor Kark made a motion to move to full Council the E-bike ordinance with Solicitor's comments, noting to remove the original vehicle definition and keep the vehicle definition added by the Solicitor, second by Councilor Hollcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Exhaust brake retarder ordinance

Chief Goshen explained the request to replace the brake retarder signs and subsequent information that was in the packet. In checking the ordinance, we found that we did not have a traffic study to support the placement of the signs. That initiated the

correspondence with PennDOT. During the research, they found documentation from January 8, 2001, that approved the brake retarder restrictions on 772, SR 230, SR 4002 and SR 4015. In addition, Chief Goshen requested signs on SR 4003 (Longenecker Road) and SR 4035 (Fairview Road), both were denied. Locations #6, #7 and #11 were denied. They reaffirmed that the other roads were approved. Councilor Kark referenced location #8 is obstructed by trees. Chief Goshen will have the officers double check all sign locations for any visibility concerns. Councilor Hollcraft made a motion to forward to full Council the Exhaust Brake Retarder ordinance revision, second by Councilor Kark. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Eichler explained the reasoning behind the requests as PennDOT requires sixty (60) day notice for road closures, banner requests, etc. and Chief Goshen submits the requests (TE300) at the start of the year. Mayor Bradley explained that five of the events are long-standing events (Memorial Day Parade, Cruisin' Cuisine, National Night Out, Spooktacular and Winterfest) within the Borough and are staffed by Mount Joy fire police who are also requested by other communities to assist with their events. Some of these events are large enough that the fire police must request assistance from surrounding agencies, so part of this is to give enough notification so fire police can appropriately address their staffing needs as well.

- a. Fresh Brews Event 4/25/26 1:00pm-5:00pm Main Street Closure (Resolution) Noise variance request (Resolution)
- b. Memorial Day Parade 5/23/26 2:00pm Main Street Closure (Resolution)
- c. Summer Solstice 2026 6/20/26 12:00n-5:00pm Main Street Closure (Resolution)
- d. Cruisin' Cuisine Event 7/25/26 7:00am-5:00pm Main Street Closure (Resolution)
- e. National Night Out 8/4/26 6:00pm-8:00pm Delta Street Closure (Resolution)
- f. Mount Joy Spooktacular 10/23/26 5:00pm-8:00pm Main Street Closure (Resolution)
- g. Ginger Goudie Memorial 5K 11/7/26 9:00am-1:00pm Lefever Road Partial Closure
- h. Winterfest Event 12/5/26 11:00am-7:00pm Main Street Closure (Resolution)
- i. Banner Request-Kraybill Mennonite School 4/27/26-5/9/26 (Resolution)
- j. Banner Request-FDMJ Recruitment Drive-5/18/26-5/31/26 (Resolution)
- k. Banner Request-Donegal Graduation-5/31/26-6/8/26 (Resolution)
- l. Banner Request-Milanof-Schock Book Sale-6/8/26-6/22/26 (Resolution)
- m. Civil Service Report 2026

Mayor Bradley explained that he did not feel all the items should be lumped together in one motion. He relayed that the 'for profit' events must articulate to the Borough how/where/percentage of the profit proceeds will benefit the Borough.

Councilor Hollcraft made a motion to move to full Council to approve the road closure Resolutions for Agenda Items 11b, d, e, f and h, (Memorial Day Parade, Cruisin' Cuisine, National Night Out, Mount Joy Spooktacular and Winterfest), second by Councilor Kark. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council Agenda Item 11a Fresh Brews Main Street Closure and Noise Resolution on April 25, 2026, from 1pm to 5pm providing they have

given the requested information to the Borough prior to the Council meeting, second by Councilor Hollcraft. Motion carried with Councilors Eichler and Hollcraft voting Yes; Councilor Kark voting No.

Councilor Hollcraft made a motion to move to full Council Agenda Item 11c Summer Solstice Main Street Closure Resolution on June 20, 2026, from 12n to 5pm pending Council receiving the requested financial contribution information, second by Councilor Eichler. Motion carried with Councilors Eichler and Hollcraft voting Yes; Councilor Kark voting No.

Councilor Kark made a motion to move to full Council the advisement of Agenda Item 11g Ginger Goudie Memorial 5K Partial Road Closure on November 7, 2026, second by Councilor Hollcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hollcraft made a motion to move to full Council Agenda Items 11i, j, k and l (Kraybill Mennonite School, FDMJ Recruitment Drive, Donegal Graduation and Milanof-Schock Book Sale) Banner Requests, second by Councilor Kark. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kark made a motion to move to full Council Agenda Item 11m Civil Service Report for 2026, second by Councilor Hollcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT – Any Borough Resident or Borough Property Owner

Patrick Gerlach, 265 Lumber Street, thanked the committee for the conversation about this difficult issue. Special thanks to Chief Goshen for his explanations.

Jen Angeles, 219 Marietta Avenue, inquired if there was a formal way to provide the appropriate information to Council for events such as the Summer Solstice.

Liz Hollcraft, 105 Talbot Street, inquired about who pays for fencing, etc. for events.

Manager Pugliese explained that there is a fee schedule in place for events.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Mayor Bradley reiterated that the MOA has not been signed since the MOA is being revised, so Council will need to weigh in on this matter again.

Chief Goshen was very surprised that three different municipalities around Mount Joy Borough could go into this agreement, and nobody said anything. He was glad people took the time and told us how they felt. He agreed to hold off on signing the MOA for now since it is being revised; no idea when it will be ready. We will make sure that the message gets out when there will be conversation about it.

Councilor Hollcraft made a motion to advise full Council that the Task Force 287G MOA may be changing and to delay signature until more information has been received and Council and public have time to digest; seconded by Councilor Kark. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Eichler mentioned that he was stopped at the pedestrian crosswalk at Marietta and Main and the other drivers did not stop. Chief Goshen explained that he runs Pedestrian Enforcement Waves and that intersection is one of the targets. That intersection is poorly designed.

Manager Pugliese mentioned Mount Joy Borough was approved to receive a \$724K grant for approximately eleven additional pedestrian crosswalks and other safety measures to address vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.

Mayor Bradley explained the snow removal process for the new Councilors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

An Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

At 22:03 Hrs. Councilor Kark made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second by Councilor Hollcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis