

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for October 28, 2024 as presented was made by Councilor Eichler; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Bruce Haigh, Borough Council West Ward, had sent everyone an email on parking issues in Florin Hill. The issue is not just street width; the current zoning ordinance requires that for townhouse must have two- and one-half parking spaces, but they are now proposing two parking spaces. The half space is for common parking areas. Bruce encouraged the committee to review the information he provided and drive through the development as it is on Council's November agenda for discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes from the September 23, 2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting, with noted correction from Councilor Fahndrich, was made by Councilor Eichler; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes from the September 23, 2024 meeting, as corrected, have been approved.

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Brett Hamm presented his report for September which was included in the packet. They responded to thirty-eight calls for the month of September 2024; four hundred twenty-nine calls so far in 2024. Time in service was twenty-eight hours and five minutes. Calls were every fifteen hours and sixteen minutes. They averaged 9.34 members per call for the month. The average response time in September was four minutes and forty-eight seconds with an average arrival time to the scene of eight minutes and fifteen seconds. Training events totaled one hundred eight with two hundred thirty-one hours total training hours for September. There were twenty-seven first due alarms with ten mutual aids; eleven in the Borough, twelve in Rapho Township, three in Mount Joy Township and one in East Donegal Township. There were

no notable fires in September. There was no fire prevention details this month. The public/community service details for the month, totaling one hundred fifteen hours, included fire police assistance with East Petersburg parade, Mastersonville fire company open house, directed traffic for two Donegal High School football games and the Lancaster Airport annual air show. Member activity other than training and calls for the month, documented four hundred twenty-five and half hours of station staffing administrative duties and station and apparatus maintenance. Standard meetings for the month include: Board of Fire Command Officers, Executive Board, monthly business and presentation for Rapho Township's Supervisors quarterly meeting. They held their annual fire department picnic. An open house is scheduled for this Saturday from 8am to 12noon. Regarding Florin Hill, he relayed that evenings and weekends are particularly challenging to get fire trucks through the development. The residents park too close to the intersection making it difficult to navigate the turns.

EMA REPORT

Phil Colvin reviewed his summary report for October which was included in the packet. DCNR has issued Red Flag Warnings for the County due to the dry conditions. There is a no burn ban at this time. Stream gauge outside of town is in the County's hand. He updated and completed Event Support Plans for Janus 5K and Spooktacular events and has started working on the plan for Winterfest. He continues to work on updating the Borough's Emergency Operations Plan and has one more risk assessment that needs to be done for the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Once finished, the Borough must adopt it. He will hold a meeting regarding Memorial Day parade in a few months. He has generators available for Election Day should they be needed. Mayor Bradley mentioned that the Borough is compiling a list of grants and asked for his input from an emergency management perspective. He will do some checking and said that Hazardous Mitigation has some grants that once the plan is adopted, the funds are opened up. Manager Pugliese inquired about radios and Colvin stated they would need at most, two portables. Colvin explained that if you get any Federal money, the radios must be encrypted which adds a significant cost. Radios need to be thought of like computers; you might get five to six years out of them. Steve Buchle of Penn State Life Lion said to watch the timing of your radio purchase as they had an issue with expired warranties on radios which hadn't even been put into service as a particular County wasn't ready to make the switch.

PSH LIFE LION REPORT

Scott Buchle, Director, Penn State Health Life Lion, was in attendance and reviewed the report. There were sixty-three 911 calls in the Borough with about one thousand calls in Lancaster County. Last month, there were one hundred sixty-two calls that were not in primarily Penn State Life Lion area. Regarding staffing, they have fourteen people in training; seven EMT started class at HACC; should be on the street in February and an additional seven that are in various states of training. Penn State Health System is looking at salary structure due to turnover. They had between 140-160 non-emergency transport calls. They are looking at bringing on a sub-contracted EMS by the end of the month to handle the non-emergency transports primarily during the day and early evening.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Formal Process for Committee Communication on Capital Projects
This is still being worked on.
- b. Delta Street Parking Study (In process)
Completed but in review process; will be ready for November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Winterfest Road Closure – 12/7 1000 – 2000 hours
Road closure request provided in packet for Saturday, December 7 from 10am to 8pm for Winterfest was discussed; event is 12:00noon to 5:00pm. Motion to move to full Council the road closure request on Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 10am to 8pm for Winterfest, Main Street from Barbara Street to Market Street; Marietta Avenue from Main Street to Henry Street and Delta Street from Main Street to Henry Street was made by Councilor Eichler; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Fire Department Budget Proposal
FDMJ budget worksheet provided covers the numbers for the General Fund, Building and Grounds, Operations, Relief Equipment and Total Expenses from 2021 through 2024 and the planned budget for 2025. In years past, the Executive Board provided to the Borough the pared down version of the needs for the year. The information received back in September was every committee's needs/wants for the year which is why there was a large jump in the number. The Executive Board is trying to rack and stack the list and identify what needs to happen in 2025. For the last two to three years, they have been pushing off replacing the roof; building was built in 1979/1980 and the roof has been patched several times and never replaced. Another item that was on it that has been discussed considerably at the municipal leadership presentation a month or two ago, is stipend/retention program. Ten years ago, was the last municipal leadership presentation and Chief Hamm felt at that time, that they would still be a volunteer organization. At last month's meeting, Chief Hamm couldn't say that they will still be a volunteer organization in another five to ten years. If we incentivize the daytime and administrative staff, that would help. Mayor Bradley feels that the Borough, and Rapho Township at a minimum, needs to be in continual conversations about the future direction of FDMJ. The future of volunteerism is at risk. While the FDMJ is still in the budgetary process, we need to move forward with numbers. Manager Pugliese distributed a worksheet where he plugged in some numbers, purple is the current year and green is what the Borough is proposing in the 2025 budget. Chief Hamm is unable to provide a comfortable number tonight, but will check with the Executive Board and get back to Manager Pugliese by Thursday or Friday. Mayor Bradley is concerned and frustrated that the Executive Board did not supply the actual number needed, but rather a large wish list number, so the Committee has nothing to review in advance of the budget meeting. He suggested that Manager Pugliese take last year's number (almost \$74K operating expenses), consider inflation and pencil in that number. Four percent inflation brings that number to \$74,674. Relief funds from other municipalities will either be the same or be slightly increased.

c. Potential Grant Projects

Mayor Bradley asked Chief Goshen to add this item to the Agenda. Manager Pugliese had submitted a Resolution to Admin and Finance that should have come before this Committee first for a grant for security cameras but the issue was that we had three grant notifications coming due; five weeks for one, seven weeks for another and the third one was due this month. One of the grants was a multimodal grant that is due next week, however, we cannot meet the deadline because we have to involve engineers for maps and visuals. In talking with Admin and Finance, it was discussed that a process should be started for next year for goals, projects, priorities within the Borough. Manager Pugliese would like Rachel Stebbins get shovel ready projects so if a grant comes up, we can pull it off the shelf and apply for it as many have a short window of time for submission. When the grants were opened up, Manager Pugliese did request a staff meeting with all department heads to determine what the grant money could be used for. As part of the process, Mayor Bradley would like a list of grants that we continue to reapply for over the past several years, such as police officer personal protection equipment; computer system upgrade; basically, anything the Public Safety Committee would be in favor that offsets regular operations to the police department budget and those would have a blanket approval so it doesn't have to go through this the process every time for these short window approvals. These reoccurring grants, you know what the window is. Mayor Bradley would also like to see idea generation based off of Council input, staff needs and then filtered to the appropriate Committee and then passed onto Council. He doesn't feel that any grants should be applied for without the approval from Council as far as an actual project is concerned, noting that this has nothing to do with current personnel but merely an issue that occurred in the past.

d. Security Camera Grant Discussion

Chief Goshen explained that his interest was in increasing the cameras in the Parks. The camera system in Chiques Park was upgraded two years ago and has been huge in assistance with quality-of-life issues, vandalism, etc. He has noticed a large reduction in those incidents because it has become well known that there are cameras present as well as in Kid's Joyland. There is a level of safety that comes with having cameras. He also discussed having cameras on Main Street; similar to what large cities have done. Lancaster and Harrisburg have done it; York is starting to do it and those cameras have been very instrumental in reducing instances of gratuitous violence. There is a reason why York City has a large number of shootings and Lancaster does not. They provide a level of safety. The cameras on Main Street would be two-fold as Dennis Nissley with Public Works had an interest in monitoring Main Street with weather/road conditions with snowfall so there was a brief conversation on what it would look like if we had cameras on Main Street but they would be more traffic oriented than anything else. Regarding the parks, Manager Pugliese stated that there is \$10K earmarked in the Parks 2024 budget for additional cameras. Manager Pugliese feels the long-range plan should be one manufacturer for all of the camera systems in the parks, etc. This grant would be specifically for cameras on Main Street. He has a Resolution prepared if we want to move ahead with it. Mayor Bradley is highly opposed to additional cameras in the parks and on Main Street unless we see significant criminal activity. He is okay with cameras in very limited, very targeted, very specific areas. He recognizes the benefits, but doesn't feel we need to go that route at this time. Councilor Eichler commented that we do not have paid personnel in an IT department monitoring activity on the cameras;

the police only look at the footage when a crime occurs and subsequent investigation. He feels the same about accidents at intersections. Councilor Eichler is in favor of the cameras. Councilor Fahndrich made a motion to move to full Council for a discussion and possible motion to consider security camera grant; seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Josh Deering, 33 Frank Street, inquired about where we stand with EMA support staff; does it still exist; has it been disbanded. Chief Goshen will pass this to Phil Colvin who will touch base. Josh Deering also asked if the camera grant can be utilized for the new Borough complex and splash pad. If so, he would be in favor of it and at the parks. He is not sure about cameras on Main Street. He also mentioned that some non-profit worship organizations, which there are over thirty places in the Mount Joy community, have funds left over and could potentially help FDMJ with their large capital projects.

Bruce Haigh, Borough Council, West Ward, was interested to know if we have the ability to track incidents/responses within the fire and police departments over the last year in the golden triangle in Rapho Township, to see if there was an increase with the new warehouses. That triangle is being pretty much developed and it appears to him that more increasingly there has been much more activity that the Borough's police and fire department is responding to. Perhaps there is a way to get funds from Rapho Township.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Chief Goshen mentioned that an officer's wife is associated with a non-profit Power Packs Project. They are asking permission to put a table outside the Borough Office on November 16 or November 23 as a collection site for canned goods. By Ordinance, there is an exception for non-profits that you can do this without a permit. This is only a drive for November. Councilor Crider suggested a drive-through out back or even at a park; easy in/easy out. Mayor Bradley thought Rainbow's Edge was involved in Power Packs Project and that it would make more sense to do it at another location since the Borough is closed on weekends. Chief Goshen said this particular project was through LCBC to help more families before Thanksgiving. Mayor Bradley wants Chief Goshen to get further clarification as to whether or not REYS is doing it before the Council meeting. Councilor Fahndrich commented that there are different Power Pack organizers. Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council the request for Power Packs Project for use at the Borough; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Bradley commented on parking discussion during the public input period from Bruce Haigh. We have requirements for rental properties to have parking provided and that we don't allow street parking to be included in that. It is important for Council to reflect, leading up to next week's conversation, that one considers that when one is looking at the potential for making exemptions for allowing street parking to be included in a count that might be necessary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

Councilor Fahndrich mentioned that there was an Executive Session held last month and no decisions were made.

The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss personnel/legal matters at 20:40 Hrs. and ended at 20:51 Hrs. No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

At 20:51 Hrs. Councilor Eichler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Crider. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis