

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:31 Hrs.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Councilor Fahndrich, Councilor Castaldi, 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 September 26, 2022 as presented was made by Councilor Castaldi, seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion to approve the Agenda as presented carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Bob Ruschke, 550 North Angle Street, is here to talk about the first item under New Business. He and other residents are concerned about North Angle Street and whether or not the Public Safety Committee would explore putting stop signs on North Angle Street. With the elimination of the ruts, pot holes, etc., people are starting to speed on North Angle Street and residents are concerned about accidents now that the road is smooth. Chief Goshen will address this under New Business.

Bruce Haigh, Borough Council, West Ward, saw that North Angle and Terrace was being discussed tonight. North Angle is actually thirty-six feet wide and is supposed to be thirty-four. The last section from Terrace up to Bruce is twenty feet. We, as the Borough Council did not widen it; we just put an overlay on it. So, at that intersection, you have a funneling of vehicles from a wide-open street into a narrow chute going up the hill; not a typical intersection. It might be conducive to some traffic control devices. It is well paved; they did a super job.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Fahndrich noted a few adjustments to the August 22, 2022 minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes for the August 22, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting with the noted corrections was made by Councilor Castaldi, seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes from the August 22, 2022 meeting have been approved with the noted corrections.

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Brett Hamm was in attendance and reviewed his report which was included in the packet. There was a total of forty-four calls for the month of August with a total of 357 at the end of 08/31/22. The time in service for the month was twenty-six hours and forty-eight minutes. The average response time in August was 4:27 and the average arrival time was 10:55 with Fire Police calls. They averaged nine members per call. Total man hours were 188 hours and eight minutes. They had one fire prevention detail. They had two duty crews, one work detail and one public service event. Forty-two members were trained for a total of 285 hours and zero minutes. First due calls were twenty-five; six in the Borough, fourteen in Rapho Township, one in Mount Joy Township and four in East Donegal Township. There were nineteen mutual aid alarms. Two notable fires: Hampton Inn (by McDonald's) and a truck fire on Main and New Haven Streets.

EMA REPORT

Mayor Bradley worked on the fall fest incident plan and sent it to Chief Goshen for input and will forward to everyone for final comments. Fall Fest is Saturday, October 22, 2022.

PSH LIFE LION REPORT

Adam Marden was in attendance and reviewed his report which was included in the packet. There was a total of fifty-five 911 calls in the borough; twenty-five Class 1, six Class 2 and twenty-four Class 3 calls. Their response time was down to 7:59 from 8:11. The busiest days of the week were Tuesday and Thursday, with twelve calls both days and nine calls on Wednesday. The busiest unit was dayshift; 1200-1300 Hrs. was the busiest hour of the day. They were covered seven times in Mount Joy Borough and they covered four calls in other municipalities. There will be an upcoming 'saved ceremony' for the two recent cardiac arrests. Details regarding the 'saved ceremony' will be sent to the Borough Manager. The wait time at LGH ER is 1.5 hours; new hospital opens October 3 and the next EMT academy starts on November 7, 2022, applications and interviews are being completed now. They are having trouble finding paramedics, but have some in training now.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Firearms & Other Weapons Ordinance

PSC had looked at the Firearms Ordinance before and it was taken to full Council and there were some questions. Included in your packet is the change. Mayor Bradley understands the concern about seizure of a firearm. The intent for the change in the existing ordinance was for seized firearms to be turned over to the Chief of Police and not the Mayor.

Chief Goshen was fine with the Solicitor's language as it allows for exceptions. The Solicitor was just letting us know what is going on around the Commonwealth.

Councilor Castaldi made a motion to forward the Firearms & Other Weapons Ordinance with the additional language suggested by the Solicitor to full Council; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Traffic Concern – Angle Street and Terrace Avenue

We had two people speak during Public Input regarding traffic concerns at Angle Street and Terrace Avenue. Mayor Bradley confirmed with Chief Goshen that stop signs cannot be implemented for speed control, however, there may be other traffic concerns in that area. The Public Safety Committee requested Chief Goshen conduct a traffic study, (which includes crash data/vehicle count/turning radii, parking offset, etc.), at Angle Street and Terrace Avenue, and bring the results and recommendations back to the Public Safety Committee.

SRO Position for Donegal School District

Donegal School District formally approached Chief Goshen to see if he would consider adding a fulltime SRO position. They initially asked Susquehanna Regional for a second officer and they were denied, but Dr. Lausch definitely wants another SRO added as soon as possible so he reached out to Mount Joy Borough Police. There is a meeting scheduled on September 29, 2022 to discuss the possibility more in depth as to what it would look like. It would be an 80/20 split. The length of the contract is two years, but Chief Goshen prefers a five-year contract. Chief Goshen explained that it is not doable right now, but they could cycle in officers starting in January with a permanent officer in place in the fall of 2023. Questions/concerns were discussed. Councilors Fahndrich and Castaldi were in agreement with the concept. Councilor Fahndrich made a motion to move the SRO position for Donegal School District to full Council for discussion; seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

Fleet Vehicle Replacement

Chief Goshen explained that the 2015 Ford Explorer needs to be replaced. It has become too costly to repair, exceeded its six-year mark and has over 100K miles. He proposes to trade it in for a 2023 Dodge Durango; price out sheet is included in the packet. They are willing to give us \$5,000 as a trade-in. He looked at both Ford and GM; one could not keep up with the orders and the other was too expensive. Commercial vehicles are only being built as they are sold. The transfer of monies will take place next year; only has a short window of time to order the vehicle. He has included it in his budget under 'Capital' (price plus installation of equipment is included in the line item). Councilor Castaldi made a motion to move to full Council authorizing Chief Goshen to place an order for fleet vehicle replacement; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously.

EMA Position Description

Councilor Castaldi forwarded several EMA position descriptions and are included in the packet. The consensus was that East Lampeter Township's EMA position description fit with Mount Joy Borough; just need to tweak it. Also, Item #13 needs to be reworded by Chief Goshen and he will forward the draft to the Public Safety Committee after changes are made.

Budget Proposal

Chief Goshen's budget was included in the packet. The overall gross increase is 1.15%. The SRO position will have an effect on the budget provided. Biggest driver for the gross increase was a little over 4% which is because of the officer's contract. The training budget is the same; just shows how the money is being spent. He is proposing to send the other Sergeant to the graduate program at Northwestern in January. It is the same program that the Chief and Sergeant Drexel are currently in. No change in uniforms unless we add the SRO position, then it would get bumped. We are moving to a new evidentiary detective tool that uses geo-spacial examination of crimes which is becoming more imperative as Mount Joy is a drive thru community; not a destination community. Line items were discussed in detail.

Councilor Fahndrich felt the 1.15% gross increase is extremely good given the state of the economy. Manager Pugliese said the budget looked fine to him. Mayor Bradley commended Chief Goshen on finding ways to streamline things, improve liability; improve service and do so in a fiscally responsible way.

PUBLIC INPUT

Bruce Haigh, Borough Council, West Ward, thinks we should consider the SRO position. It gives the Chief an excellent opportunity to mentor and train a new officer so when a senior officer retires, the department would be in a good position; sees real advantages to it. He commended Chief Goshen on doing a good job. When he discussed traffic concern during Public Input earlier, he did not mean for the Borough to put in stop signs, he just wanted to point out there were certain physical characteristics of that site. In the past when there have been issues with clear site triangle, the zoning officer handled that; not part of the traffic study. The house on the SE corner of that intersection has a long tradition of a hedge row on North Angle and trees on Terrace so he doesn't know how that impacts the clear site triangle but you could look at, independent of the traffic study. There is a turnout so there may not be an issue.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Councilor Castaldi congratulated Chief Goshen on the budget.

Councilor Castaldi found some information on the LIMA site that might be relevant to the committee so he will email it to everyone.

Counselor Castaldi reviewed that the Borough puts out a newsletter four times a year. He spoke to Josh Deering about Ad Hoc putting an article in the newsletter so perhaps it can go in the next one. He also thought that the Public Safety Committee should consider having a spot in the newsletter as well.

Mayor Bradley questioned about the article on cats that he thought was going to be in the Fall/Winter newsletter. Councilor Castaldi said the veterinarian's office expressed interest in doing it, but when the time came, they did not submit anything. Both Mayor Bradley and Councilor Fahndrich thought this was going to be discussed as a committee. We should plan on including it in the Spring/Summer newsletter.

Councilor Castaldi offered that we have a group email for all elected officials; perhaps the Public Safety Committee should have a group email for the public's use.

Mayor Bradley would like to see more celebration of employees; staff initiatives/recognition in the newsletter.

Councilor Fahndrich offered that the police department Pink Patch Project deadline is Sunday, October 2, 2022.

Councilor Castaldi mentioned that the Borough might want to consider putting money in the budget for TNR, if it is something we want to do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL/LEGAL MATTERS

An Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

At 20:18 Hrs. Councilor Castaldi made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis