

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:30 Hrs. In light of the Coronavirus Emergency Declarations issued by the Borough of Mount Joy, the Governor of Pennsylvania and the President of the United States, this public meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Councilor Fahndrich, Councilor Castaldi, Councilor Eichler, Mayor Bradley and Chief Goshen. Interim Borough Manager Jill Frey was also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for April 26, 2021 as presented was made by Councilor Castaldi, seconded by Councilor Eichler. Councilor Castaldi made a motion to amend the Agenda and add 10g Discussion on Establishing a County Health Department, at the end of New Business, seconded by Councilor Eichler; motion carried unanimously. Councilor Castaldi made a motion to adopt the Agenda as amended, seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion to adopt the amended Agenda carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

J. Patrick Gerlach, 147 North Market Street, Mount Joy, wanted to express his thoughts on a need for a county wide health department. especially with all the discussion surrounding COVID-19. He feels it would be a good thing to have.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting held on March 22, 2021 was made by Councilor Eichler, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion to approve the Minutes carried unanimously.

FDMJ REPORT

FDMJ Chief Gohn was not in attendance, however he emails his report and attends Council meetings.

EMA REPORT

Matt Kratz was not in attendance and no report was received.

SVEMS REPORT

Captain Blanchflower reported sixty-nine calls in the Borough with the number slowly climbing month by month. Nine were handled by Northwest; thirty-three were Class 1 calls; seven were Class 2 and twenty were Class 3. The new academy class started on April 19 with eight students and is going very well under the teachings of Captain Kanoff. The announcement of the merger between SVEMS and Penn State Life Lion was April 1, 2021. Mayor Bradley expressed his disappointment that there was a lack of transparency in this transition with the municipalities, good decision overall and, long term, it will be a better direction for survivability. Captain Blanchflower will keep her current position. The coverage for the Borough will not change. They are not working for the hospital per se, but a subdivision of it, as an LLC. Captain Blanchflower would like to call in for the Council meeting with Scott Buchle Director of Penn State Life Lion to answer any questions that Council might have regarding the merger.

OLD BUSINESS

Residential Parking Permit Ordinance

Councilor Fahndrich provided the committee with a draft of highlighted changes to include: Resident to Property Owner; Council may designate Residential Parking Permit Area; Petition to be returned to Chief of Police; Added Property Owner Signatures. Also, we need to clean up Section 4 so it is clear that the Public Safety Committee will confirm all paperwork is in order and forward the petition to full Council.

The section on Council's ability to initiate the process through its normal powers should be separated out. Perhaps add, in lieu of a petition and required signatures, Council may direct the President to schedule a public hearing of full Council for discussion. Councilor Fahndrich will continue to work on the draft and forward to the committee.

Councilor Castaldi reminded the committee of the need to change the 30-minute parking signage for the two spaces between High and Jacob Streets when the other changes are done.

Process for Declaring Snow Emergencies and Associated Responsibilities

It was confirmed that the new Borough Manager will be tasked with coming up with a process for declaring snow emergencies and associated responsibilities as well as possible utilization of the swift call system to present to the Public Safety Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Conditional Offer for Full Time Police Officer

Chief Goshen stated that the top candidate passed all aspects of the background investigation. The candidate is John Balint. He graduated from Bishop McDevitt High School near the top of his class, has a Bachelor's Degree from Penn State University and has practical experience as a CSA (Community Service Assistant) for Derry Township for the past three years. Chief Goshen passed it through Civil Service Commission and now would like permission to move to full Council to give him a conditional offer of employment. Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council to allow the Police Chief to give a conditional offer of employment to John Balint, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

Park Rules

Chief Goshen deferred to Councilor Josh Deering who stated that Public Works is looking at changing some rules at all Borough parks in Mount Joy; packets provided to the Committee. Some of the proposed changes: Change name of #9 from Park Materials to Park Resources and add the word wildlife; add #15 – No scaling of trees; add wildlife to #8; add #16 – No fireworks of any kind including sparklers; add #17 – No hunting or falconry within park limits; possibly change speed limit to 5 or 10 mph; adding extra signage as well. He wanted to verify that verbiage is accurate and enforceable. Chief Goshen stated that if the police officers were called out, citations would be issued if applicable. Chief Goshen also explained that just by adding wildlife, you would make fishing illegal. Possible language to consider...no protected species is permitted to be removed, or define wildlife. PA Title 34 (Game & Wildlife Code), Section 2508 refers to the removal of wildlife (to take or hunt wildlife is prohibited), enforceable by the Game Warden, provided it is posted throughout the park; very specific posting requirements. For PA Title 34, Section 2508 to be enforced, language must state 'congregate in the open for health, recreation and pleasure'. However, for the police, they can cite violators based on park rules and ordinances and the language does not need to be so specific. We will probably only put the 'no hunting' sign at Little Chiques Park, rather than all of the parks. Councilor Deering also added an exemption that reads that an exemption can be granted to any rule with written permission from the Mount Joy Borough Council.

Mayor Bradley was contacted by Patrick Miller, Eastern Director and Liaison for the PA Falconry & Hawk Trust and, in the past, has served as President and Vice President and other roles within the organization. He is also the Curator for the Birds of Prey Mammal Collection at the Refreshing Mountain and Wildlife Center in Lancaster County, has worked at ZooAmerica and he is one of the Program Hosts for the falconry experience at Hotel Hershey. He attended this meeting, as some of the members of his organization are residents of Mount Joy Borough.

He explained that the organization did not condone the actions of the person who removed the owl and is not a member of their organization; do not associate with him. Owls are typically not used for falconry. Most are not successful; ton of work for little reward. He offered insight on falconry. The legal definition of falconry in Pennsylvania, is the pursuit of wild game in its natural habitat with a trained bird of prey. By adding the word 'hunting', covers a lot. However, if you add 'hunting' and 'falconry', that is a muddy area. People who live in Borough limits or urban areas, rely heavily on these public resources/parks as a safe haven training ground for their birds. It helps desensitize the birds by getting them around people, dogs, crowds, exercises them, teaches the bird to watch/follow him, etc. Ultimately it will hurt a lot of people. They also use them for abatement in public places such as vineyards, airports, etc. Also, it is not an easy process to become a falconer. A two-year apprenticeship is required for falconry and they are inspected annually by their local WCO.

Councilor Castaldi feels we need to Incorporate language that users of the park agree to abide by all terms and conditions of the Borough codes, ordinances, etc. but making reference to protected species, without referencing PA Title 34.

Councilor Deering will continue to work on this and welcomes any comments/suggestions. This will be on the May Public Works Agenda for more discussion. He will bring up the falconry piece.

QR Reader for Future Meetings

Chief Goshen reviewed with the Committee to consider moving to QR Codes for future meetings. He explained that \$900 was spent on printing fees for this meeting in 2018 and \$600 in 2019. Since COVID, printing costs have dropped to a total of \$50.00 since July of 2020. If we go back to in person meetings, he felt we should consider QR Codes to be more fiscally responsible.

Wood Street Yard Sale

A resident reached out to Chief Goshen regarding the upcoming yard sale on Wood Street. The neighborhood is considering having food trucks present for the yard sale which spans from Musser to Market Street. This may present a traffic hazard should there be an emergency in that area, as well as a safety hazard. Chief Goshen reached out to the Zoning Officer to see if it meets the definition of an Assemblage under the Borough code as far as requiring a permit. The Borough does not have a definition of what an Assemblage is. We know that yard sales are permissible, but food trucks and their placement matters. If they are parked on property, that becomes a Zoning Officer issue; if parked on the street, it becomes a department issue. If the food truck is going to operate as a concession for a period of time, they will need to get a permit. If they are going to park on the road, certain permitting is required. Mayor Bradley referred to

Peddlers and Solicitors...under License Required. Chief Goshen is going to reach out to his contact and have her refer to the Ordinance for food trucks.

Sale of CRASH Van

This agenda item and the next one (Purchase of Chief's Vehicle) go together. For several years, the Mount Joy Borough provided the vehicle for the Northwest Crash Investigations Team. They respond to major accidents, fatalities, etc. The team is composed of all the police departments in the Northwest part of the county. The vehicle in question is a 1990 Ford E350. Not only does the Borough own it, but we carry the cost of repairs for this vehicle during its entire life cycle but the vehicle has become cost preventative to repair. The team raised donations to outfit a CRASH trailer to replace the CRASH van that can be utilized by any municipality. The Chief would like to augment our fleet. We currently have four marked patrol vehicles (two Dodge Chargers; one Ford Explorer and one Dodge Ram) and the Detective has a vehicle. Chief Goshen would like to liquidate the CRASH van as a trade-in with our vendor to purchase a vehicle for his fulltime use. Chief Goshen will drive its entire life cycle and it will not be traded in. By moving to five marked patrol vehicles, it will extend the lifecycle of the cars as they would be rotated every five years as opposed to every four years. This will give us enough cars to run details and at the change of shift, we would have a car for every officer on duty. We have been offered \$4K as a trade in for the CRASH van. He is looking at purchasing a 2017 Ford Fusion (identical to the current Detective vehicle). The car will only need visor lights at an approximate cost of \$50. This would change how things were done in the past which was the previous Chief would purchase a new vehicle for himself, outfit it, drive it for approximately a year, rotate his vehicle in the fleet and then trade in an older patrol vehicle, and then purchase a new vehicle for himself so he was always driving a new vehicle. Councilor Fahndrich made a motion to move to full Council to consider the sale of the CRASH van and the purchase of a Chief's vehicle, seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion passed unanimously.

Purchase of Chief's Vehicle

See 'Sale of CRASH Van' above.

Discussion on Establishing a County Health Department (newly added Agenda item)

Councilor Castaldi wanted to discuss whether Lancaster County should establish a county health department. Lancaster County is one of the larger growing counties without a health department. The question for Mount Joy Borough is, as elected officials, should we weigh in with the County Commissioners, as several municipalities have decided to weigh in on establishing a county health department. Councilor Castaldi made a motion to move to full Council the discussion as to whether or not Lancaster County should pursue a County Health Department, seconded by Councilor Fahndrich. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

Karen McCrady, 315 Berry Street, owns the business The Craft Factory on East Main Street, inquired about the status of the thirty-minute parking signs. A tenant parked there for three days straight. The sign encompasses two spots because of the distance it covers, per the Ordinance. The committee explained that once the residential parking permit is resolved, it should streamline the parking situation on East Main Street. The change of signs would be proposed all at the same time to consolidate the costs of the Solicitor, advertising and multiple meetings, which needs to be done to change the Ordinance. Until such resolve, the shop owner should reach out to the police department if she sees the space(s) being abused.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Last month, Mayor Bradley brought up the issue of free roaming and feral cats throughout the Borough. He asks that the Committee review the literature and information for next month from a public health perspective. He also asks that the Committee do some research and look at what other municipalities have done. Councilor Fahndrich has done some research on it and now has seen multiple cases on social media. Councilor Eichler and his wife dropped off a male cat for neutering on Earth Day at a cost of \$200 and will be dropping off a female this week. Mayor Bradley thanked Councilor Eichler and his wife for their efforts.

Councilor Eichler asked Chief Goshen about the status of the Dunkin Donut issue. He is getting some complaints about traffic issues on the east end. Chief Goshen explained that the work that was to be done on the wall has been postponed due to COVID-19 and the costs associated with the project. He did speak with Chief Stauffer at Manheim, who provides police service for Rapho Township regarding the issue. The property behind is private property so the Police cannot legally redirect the traffic through the development.

Councilor Eichler inquired about the Lakes HOA dog leash, feces pickup, etc. The individual has been identified and the Chief is trying to make contact with this person to address it formally. In absence of that, as we get calls, we will go out and enforce the laws. There is a leash law, licensing law and vaccination law.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS

An Executive Session was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

At 21:41 Hrs. Councilor Eichler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Diana Ellis