

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Councilor Fahndrich at 18:31 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. Borough Manager Mark Pugliese was also present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda for June 28, 2021 as presented was made by Councilor Eichler, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Councilor Fahndrich has a change because of an email received requesting a noise exemption so she amended the Agenda to add 10f – Noise Exemption under New Business. A motion to adopt the Public Safety Committee Meeting Agenda, as amended with additional item 10f for June 28, 2021 was made by Councilor Eichler, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion to adopt the amended Agenda carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Brent Rambler, 619 Donegal Springs Road, Mount Joy, who has been a resident at that location for three years, emailed Councilor Castaldi last week regarding the increased traffic and speeding in the area. Last year when Marietta Avenue was closed, this road was heavily traveled. Since it is a straight shot in and out of town, the traffic has continued. This road is pretty much residential with fifteen school aged children within one block of his house and he is concerned for the safety of the pedestrians and children in that area. He and his neighbors would like to see the speed dropped from 35 mph to 25 mph or a speed table or pedestrian walk table installed. Chief Goshen explained that the speed sign was moved to Donegal Springs Road and Chocolate Avenue. Right now, it is on stealth mode and records the data of incoming and outgoing traffic. Once reviewed, usually after about two weeks, we can drill down the times to when the violations occur and begin enforcement and we are more successful in our enforcement efforts. As for reducing the speed, Councilor Castaldi had asked me about that, a traffic study would need to be done which he can do if the committee requests him to do so. As explained to Councilor Castaldi, there are a lot of factors that go into

setting speed, such as crash information data, line of sight data, what type of use its accustomed to and the big one is you try to measure what the 85th percentile of the average speed on that roadway. From my experience, that roadway is probably closer to 40-45 mph as the 85th percentile and as a general rule, you don't intentionally lower the speed limit that going to create over a 50% violation rate of the usage of that road. You fix that through enforcement. Environmental controls are very expensive and cause an issue with snow plowing. They tend to destroy and knock them down a bit faster. Some municipalities, at the intersections, create bulb-outs that allow the cross streets to be further out into the lane, but that would be a long-term project. To help you and your neighbors out, enforcement efforts will start but he also encouraged Mr. Rambler to call him anytime.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting held on May 24, 2021 as presented 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 is looking forward to events back in the Borough with relaxed COVID restrictions. He will activate the EOC for the upcoming car show. He has some EMA meetings at the end of the summer and will be doing some training over the next two months that he will be traveling for. The G Series courses are no longer funded by PEMA. Overall, EMA side is pretty good.

SVEMS REPORT

SVEMS report in the packet. Captain Blanchflower reported forty-three calls in the Borough. Nineteen were Class 1 calls; eight were Class 2 and sixteen were Class 3. They graduated another class and all are in doing training and doing very well. Looking forward to filling another class.

OLD BUSINESS

Free Roaming and Feral Cats

Mayor Bradley forwarded information to the committee. He tried to get the information from a multitude of sources. One approach would be to issue permit for cat colonies. Health concerns and bird kill were included in the

information. If you move into a program of spay/neuter, there are costs associated with it and can be quite costly. The feeding of free roaming felines perpetuates the problem and that's where the permitting piece comes into play. We need to decide what direction we want to go. Councilor Fahndrich reached out to the PA State Borough Association and is waiting for a return call. After reading the information, she suggested one avenue to go with a plan, would be a community education piece. Councilor Castaldi supports a graduated approach starting with education, possibly a Press Release from the Borough Manager, work with the PA State Borough Association and include cat language in the dog ordinance. If that doesn't work, take a more forceful approach. Chief Goshen relayed that Manheim Township changed their ordinance to 'mammals' because anything with four legs has become a pet; made it a little cleaner. He agreed that education is a good start; perhaps with a door hanger. Mayor Bradley feels we could put something in the fall newsletter. Councilor Fahndrich will forward the information from the PA State Borough Association. She feels education is a good start but continued dialogue is necessary to come up with some solutions. Councilor Castaldi suggested using Facebook. Mayor Bradley wants a coordinated effort; common messaging. Councilor Eichler agrees with initial step of education and door hangers.

NEW BUSINESS

Conditional Offer Protocols

We have a redundant process in place in a very competitive race with other municipalities. Mayor Bradley explained that once all conditions are met, the candidate is basically hired. Moving forward, when a conditional offer is given and when there is a list, he would like the Police Chief to be able to move through the list without revisiting with Council. So, if the candidate fails one of the conditions, he can just move down the list to the next candidate. You either make an offer with conditions or without conditions. Council can still make a conditional offer with a time constraint. Chief Goshen is accustomed to, coming from the City, is to ask the committee to hire, you decide if appropriate and you pass it onto Council, Council makes a decision to approve or disapprove, if approved then that's the end of it. You are essentially offering me to hire somebody. Our candidate pool has been dwindling; there are only two departments that can afford to send candidates to the Policy Academy. That means all other municipalities hire off Act 120 graduates which gets cut throat in trying to get top candidates. Typically for every ten candidates, there are usually only about three to four that make it through the process so you can see how quickly 100 candidates get chewed up. It puts us in a better position to be competitive. Borough Manager Pugliese concurs with what both Mayor Bradley and Chief Goshen said. He was with the Consortium since its initial startup in the County and was surprised by the current process; once conditions are met, it is basically the offer of employment. He does not know of any municipality that

goes to the Council twice but doesn't mean there isn't any. Eighty percent of the municipalities in the Commonwealth hire through Act 120 training. He feels that if the Police Chief finds someone suitable and that he is recommending, he should be able to move ahead as fast as possible. Councilor Fahndrich concurs with everything said. Mayor Bradley would like a procedure written out for hiring police officers. Chief Goshen will write the policy and offer it to the Public Safety Committee and then it can be forwarded to Council.

Policy Review

A series of policies were sent to the Public Safety Committee members. Mayor Bradley did not feel comfortable signing off on the policies that fall under the Council's responsibilities. Chief Goshen explained that Lexipol sets out a framework for policy creation. As stated by the Mayor, these four policies are outside the Mayor's scope and fall under Council. Councilor Fahndrich questioned the policy on overtime, and possibly all of them, if the way it is written, whether it falls under the current contract. Chief Goshen acknowledged that it did and followed labor laws as well. He also explained that the officers must read and sign off on all policies. Lexipol sends out an electronic version on the policy manual, and sends out Daily Training Bulletins to the officers, which is a review of the policies. Basically, it cycles through the manual four times per year. Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council the four policies that were discussed regarding the contract for consideration, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

Part Time Officer Compensation Increase

Chief Goshen stated that the part time officers are making \$23/hour. He would like to increase it to \$26/hour to stay competitive. He explained that the part time officers have really stepped it up, especially with the long-term injuries and financially the \$3/hour increase won't be impactful to the budget. Councilor Eichler made a motion to move to full Council to raise the compensation of the part time offices from an hourly rate of \$23/hour to \$26/hour, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

Termination of 15-Minute Pickup Zones

Mayor Bradley had heard from the community pertaining to the impact COVID-19 had on our businesses. We had agreed to provide temporary 15-minute pickup locations for those interested businesses. Now that the State has ended the emergency declaration, do we want to end the temporary signage/zones now or wait until we remove our declaration. Dining is open to 100% capacity now and those spots could be used for indoor dining parking. Dave Schell, MSMJ, will reach out to the three businesses that took advantage of the temporary pickup zones. Councilor Fahndrich made a motion to authorize the Chief to terminate the 15-minute pick up zones effective Friday, July 2, 2020, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Councilor Eichler questioned the motion. After

further discussion, Councilor Castaldi amended the motion given that the circumstances under which this authority was given no longer exist and that the State declaration has ended let's terminate the temporary parking by Friday, July 2, 2021, seconded by Councilor Eichler. Amended motion carried unanimously.

EMS Service Contracts

All Public Service Committee members were provided a copy of the letter/service contract from Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC prior to the meeting. Councilor Fahndrich stated that another entity has reached out to the Borough regarding EMS services. Mayor Bradley stated that this past Thursday, Admin & Finance Committee had their meeting and took up two things as it pertains to EMS services in the Borough. In that meeting it was discussed that SVEMS uses a building on Church Street and part of the deed identifies that the land going back to when the organization at least in Mount Joy was Mount Joy/Rheems EMS had been provided by Mount Joy Borough under the caveat that EMS services would be provided from that facility. As we know, SVEMS is being acquired by Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC and there is land agreement tied to that, that they would like to have that agreement continue for obvious reasons. In addition to that, there is the type of service that Mount Joy Borough is looking for. Historically there had not been an expectation of services that was clearly articulated and there has been ebbs and flows of different provisions of service through the course or lifespan of SVEMS. Mayor Bradley said on Thursday evening that it was important that two things happen; this is a moment in time for Mount Joy Borough to review and reflect on the type of service we have received to date and the service providers that are available and try to make a determination whether or not we want to continue with the new entity or go with another new entity. One of the concerns he has had over the past many years is that there is a practice within the EMS world where they often conduct what is commonly referred to as routine transports to and from facilities. In the past, those acts have resulted at times to not having a unit in the immediate vicinity to respond to emergencies within the Borough. Over the course of time, at times, we have often seen protracted response times. The other practice that would happen is that they would shuffle rigs around and they would park them in various places to cover as much area as possible. What that practically meant for Mount Joy Borough was very often the units that would be covering Mount Joy Borough to deal with some of these issues, would be to park a unit at Sheetz in Marietta. Now going back to the property and land agreement that the Council had engaged with Mount Joy/Rheems/EMS back in the late 90's and here are a few questions...why would the Borough give land to a nonprofit ambulance association in the Borough? Land is finite and the Borough only has so much of it, why would we give it to an association and the answer is very simple. Mount Joy/Rheems EMS was a merger of the EMS portion of the Friendship Fire Company in Mount Joy and of the Rheems ambulance service which was originally part of the Rheems fire company. We did that

because we wanted an ambulance unit that was located in the Borough to respond to emergencies within the Borough. We are interested in quick and timely emergency medical services. He doesn't see these things as detached issues. A decision as to who is going to provide EMS service certainly informs us as to whether or not we want to take a resource such as borough land and give it to an organization to utilize for purposes that might go beyond that. On Thursday, we were also told by Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC that routine transports are not part of their business model, and was pleased to hear that but there is a hospital being built in Lancaster County so there will be an expectation that is going to be related back to transports. But by that time, they hope to build out their capacity so that it would not infringe upon EMS services. Another conversation stemmed around staffing issues which is a problem for many EMS providers within South Central Pennsylvania. Any model that is going to work routine transports into it is very problematic. It might be the only model that exists. We owe it to the citizens of Mount Joy Borough to ask questions about those things; ask for certain assurances when we are taking Borough property and essentially giving it to a company to operate on, we have a right to ask those questions and to ask for certain guarantees. We need to get the best product as possible. Councilor Fahndrich appreciated Mayor Bradley getting the committee up to par on this issue.

Mike Fitzgibbons, Executive Director of SVEMS wanted to clarify that these issues were attempted but not known at the time of the provision in the deed that was brought to their attention by the Code Enforcement Officer. That lease was never signed with the landscaping company, never occupied the building and took care of it promptly. The building has been utilized in the last four to five years as SVEMS main headquarters and occupied by the administrative staff, training department and himself. The training center is crucial to keep on site. Mount Joy Borough has given zero dollars for the past twenty years, except for the land that was given to Mount Joy Borough/Rheems EMS. If it wasn't for that building there probably would never had been an EMS in the Borough because there was nobody at that time when that was happening that had the ability to staff it. Mount Joy Borough needs to make a decision with Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC as far as the agreement goes. Every EMS, paid by a City, or unless backed by a major health system, is in the same situation as SVEMS is at this point and will not be able to sustain the level of service that Mount Joy Borough wants for free.

Scott Buchle, Director, Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC stated that on behalf of Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC, they understand the sensitivity of this issue and the history but that is in the past. On or around August 1, 2021, SVEMS will cease to exist and Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC will provide service to the mobile communities in Lancaster County. Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC will provide 24/7 ambulance coverage in the Borough of Mount Joy, will to continue

to have that unit in the Borough 24/7 and will be eliminating the non-emergency transports with nursing homes that SVEMS had in place. Their focus is 911 first and then the health system second. They will have an obligation to move patients through their new hospital. They are very sensitive to 911 response times. They are very skilled at balancing 911 service between the non-emergency services. He cannot tell the committee how many transports will come out of that hospital. They will be increasing their staffing level and hope to add one to two ambulances in Lancaster County in the next year. If they are called to another municipality on a 911 call, they must respond. Non-emergency transports they can control by forming an exit strategy to get out of the nursing home contracts and focusing inward on their own health system. Beginning in September, they will run another EMT academy to close the gap of any remaining open positions on SVEMS on their current par staffing along with some positions at the West Shore location to get the biggest bang out of that academy. It will run to around Thanksgiving time and then hope to run another academy after that to increase resources in Lancaster County. They believe that within a short time frame by eliminating the non-emergency transports for the nursing homes, Mount Joy Borough should see an improvement in response times. Until they understand the volume down here and build upon it, they know they need to add more units but cannot state where they need to be at this time. They know Mount Joy Borough has a concern and they would like to keep a unit in the Borough as much as possible. Columbia Borough also has some concerns. Mount Joy and Columbia Boroughs are the only two who have not signed any agreement with Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC. Associate Chief Council for Penn State, Nicole Lehman, is on this meeting as well and is available to answer any questions on the contract.

Mayor Bradley inquired if they are eliminating transports from the other facilities, non-Penn State facilities, how does that compare to what is anticipated from the new hospital. SVEMS par staffing is lower than what Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC has for their services. On an average day, they have less units on the street than what Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC does. SVEMS units are required to service 911 and non-emergency transports. Steve Buchle feels that it will be a comparable volume to Penn State Holy Spirit. With the elimination of non-emergency nursing home transports will be significant and should free up ambulances, but again they still need to get more EMS providers on the street. That will take the next couple of months. Mayor Bradley asked, assuming both Columbia and Mount Joy Boroughs sign on, initially what would be your plan for operating out of the Church Street station. Scott Buchle said Mount Joy Borough would have a 24/7 unit in the Borough for emergency calls unless called out to another municipality.

Borough Manager Pugliese discussed what changes to the agreement are they willing to make so it is more palatable to the Council; need to memorialize some

statements that Scott Buchle made. Scott Buchle said they are committed to what was requested earlier: committed to having unit in the Borough 24/7; keep unit available as much as possible for 911 calls; lessening the number of non-emergency transports; upping the staffing/coverage level as a whole. He cannot state that the unit will never leave the station for a non-emergency transport. If they can get another unit staffed, of the two extras that he mentioned earlier, base one out of Mount Joy Borough too. With the added staffing and deployment, if we can get those units on the street, Mount Joy Borough should see quality response time metrics as well. Borough Manager Pugliese asked specifically if they are willing to put some type of verbiage in the agreement to address that they will staff the building in Mount Joy Borough 24 hours a day unless on emergency calls. Steve Buchle stated that if there are contract revisions that the Borough would like, by all mean, they will be happy to negotiate them and put them in if feasible and agreeable to both the Borough and the health system. Nicole Lehman said they will review the Borough's requests and edits or ideas to the contract. She continued to say that from a business model, they are coming to a county where they never existed. It would behoove them to please Mount Joy Borough very quickly. She encouraged Mount Joy Borough to sit down with the solicitor and send the changes to her. Scott Buchle was in touch with Tim Baldwin of LCWC and plan to follow the county dispatch system; that was never a question. They will go where the county sends them.

Mayor Bradley inquired as to what ALS (Advanced Life Support) and BLS (Basic Life Support) look like. BLS has two EMTs on board; ALS has a Paramedic on the squad vehicle or Paramedic on an ambulance with an EMT and then that transporting ambulance would be called a MICU (Mobile Intensive Care Unit). Paramedics are at a premium right now and is one of the challenges they have. Their model is to continue the MICU out of Mount Joy. There are advanced EMTs that SVEMS has started to utilize and that is a relatively new concept from the Department of Health from the past couple of years. The service model for the Borough will be a mix of MICU and BLS units and some of the advanced EMT trucks. Ultimately, the model they have across the rest of the system is to have a Paramedic Squad that is the shift supervisor; SVEMS calls them captains and lieutenants.

Councilor Fahndrich thanked Nicole Lehman, Scott Buchle and Mike Fitzgibbons for their time and they will not be making any decision tonight.

Noise Exemption

Councilor Fahndrich received a request for a noise exemption from Councilor Deering for 33 Frank Street, Mount Joy for an event on Saturday, August 7, 2021. The party will take place from 3pm to 10pm; DJ will end by 9pm. There won't be any blaring music but they will be outside. Councilor Eichler made a motion to

move to full Council the noise exemption request to the July meeting, seconded by Councilor Castaldi. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

Matt Kratz, 252 Lumber Street, Mount Joy encouraged the committee to continue talks with Penn State Health Life Lion, LLC to work out an agreement to having them in the building. He cautioned the Borough on putting wording in the contract regarding non-emergency transports not being able to be used by the Mount Joy truck. He feels Penn State Health is willing to commit to leaving a truck in the Borough as much as possible, but there are situations, he does work in EMS, where the truck might be at the hospital and a non-emergency transport for a patient that is on Hospice and is also a Borough citizen and wants to come home, just as an example, it would only make sense for the truck that is at the hospital to bring that patient back to the Borough. But if that is put into the contract, they are in violation of the contract. Just wanted this to be taken into consideration.

ANY OTHER MATTER PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Councilor Eichler thought that the traffic management at Dunkin Donuts is working out pretty well. Chief Goshen explained that things are going to change a bit in that employees will now be governing the traffic.

Councilor Castaldi felt there was a great discussion about EMS in Mount Joy Borough. There have been some grievances with SVEMS and was glad it was discussed. He also forwarded a photograph of the sign at 206 East Main Street. There is a 15-minute sign there and in lieu of the 15-minute sign he would like to go along with the other Borough parking signs and that a two-hour limitation sign in those two spots would be the preferred outcome. Just wanted to make sure it wasn't lost or forgotten. Councilor Fahndrich mentioned that it was a 30-minute sign; not 15 minute and it will be addressed at the same time as other ordinance changes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS

The committee went into Executive Session to discuss property at 21:13 Hrs. and ended at 21:37 Hrs. No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

At 21:37 Hrs. Councilor Castaldi made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilor Eichler. Motion carried unanimously.