

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

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**Members:** Reinhold, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Zimmerman, Alternate; Petrick, Staff

**Attendees:** Reinhold, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Zimmerman, Alternate; Council Members: Rowe; Martin; Barr; Mowen Staff: Petrick; Thompson. Adamstown Borough Mayor Schmidt; Dale Hackman; Kim Stonebraker; Suzie Wurtz (virtual)

The Public Safety Committee met on January 18, 2021, and discussed the following:

### **Action Items:**

1. FAA Certificate of Authorization: Public Safety Committee recommended authorizing and ratifying the Ephrata Borough Police Department's application to the Federal Aviation Administration for a Certificate of Authorization to operate its small unmanned aircraft system as a public entity within the jurisdiction served by its department.

### **Discussion Items:**

1. November and December 2020 Monthly Police Reports were provided and review by Chief Petrick. He highlighted the Excellence in Policing section. Sgt. Matthew Randolph provided a brief overview of the EPD's drone unit. Council requested a future demonstration of the drones. Chief Petrick will arrange for this to occur.
2. Emergency Management December Report: Report was provided to the Public Safety Committee. Randy Gockley was not in attendance. Kim Stonebraker provided a brief COVID-19 update.
3. Use of Force Policy: Chief John Petrick provided an overview of the updated policy. In light of recent national attention regarding police departments' Use of Force policy, Chief Petrick highlighted the following areas of the EPD policy (with excerpts below) and stated that it would be posted on the department's website.
  - a) 300.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE: This policy provides guidelines on the reasonable use of force. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, every member of this department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner.
  - b) 300.2.1 DUTY TO INTERCEDE AND REPORT: Any officer present and observing another law enforcement officer or a member using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. Any officer who observes another law enforcement officer or a member use force that is potentially beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall report these observations to a supervisor as soon as feasible.
  - c) 300.3.4 VASCULAR NECK RESTRAINTS AND CHOKE HOLDS: Due to the potential for injury, the use of a vascular neck restraint or a choke hold is limited to those circumstances where deadly force is authorized.

- d) 300.3.6 ALTERNATIVE TACTICS - DE-ESCALATION: When circumstances reasonably permit, officers shall use non-violent strategies and techniques to decrease the intensity of a situation, improve decision-making, improve communication, reduce the need for force, and increase voluntary compliance (e.g., summoning additional resources, formulating a plan, attempting verbal persuasion).
  - e) 300.5.2 USE OF FORCE REPORT REQUIRED: All Use of Force Reports shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Chief of Police or designee.
  - f) 300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS: Once it is reasonably safe to do so, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who exhibits signs of physical distress, has sustained visible injury, expresses a complaint of injury or continuing pain, or was rendered unconscious. Any individual exhibiting signs of physical distress after an encounter should be continuously monitored until he/she can be medically assessed. Individuals should not be placed on their stomachs for an extended period, as this could impair their ability to breathe.
  - g) 300.8 TRAINING: Officers will receive annual training on this policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. Officers will receive annual training for all authorized less lethal weapons, empty-hand control, arrest and defensive techniques. Subject to available resources, officers should receive periodic training on: (a) Guidelines regarding vulnerable populations, including but not limited to children, elderly, pregnant persons, and individuals with physical, mental, or intellectual disabilities. (b) De-escalation tactics, including alternatives to force.
4. Fire Commission Status: Borough Manager Thompson provided a status update on the Commission. He stressed the importance of someone taking a leadership role in moving the vision forward. Council members discussed having Mr. Jerry Ozog provide a proposed contract for his future services to provide guidance on the Commission formation (by-laws and Commission structure). A meeting date of February 25, 2021, to include Jerry Ozog and stakeholders, was previously set.
5. PSAB Legislative Update: The deadline for feedback to PennDOT on the Draft Policy and Procedures for the Deployment of Personal Delivery Devices is January 22, 2021.

**Old Business Items:**

- 1. None

**Miscellaneous Items:**

- 1. None

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM. The motion was carried unanimously.