

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – JUNE 14, 2021

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

**Attendees:** Reinhold, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Zimmerman, Alternate; Council members: Rowe; Martin; Barr; Mayor Mowen. Staff: Petrick; Thompson. Randy Gockley; Kim Stonebraker, Rebecca Beres; Jon Sullenberger; Theresa Caruthers, Richard Kiefer, Gail Glatfelter, Frank Kirkpatrick, Rich Gehman

The Public Safety Committee met on May 17, 2021, and discussed the following:

**Action Items:** None

### **Discussion Items:**

- 1. Police Department Monthly Reports:** Chief John Petrick reviewed the April monthly reports. He highlighted the Excellence in Policing section of the report. He spoke of the department's actions during a windstorm that occurred on 4/30/21 and how officers coordinated with other utilities to address weather related issues. Chief Petrick mentioned Officer Dell Isola's efforts related to people in crisis and how he was specifically requested by a consumer for assistance.
- 2. COPS Grant:** Chief Petrick provided an overview of the FY 21 COPS Hiring Program from the Department of Justice-Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. He provided a vision for the program in Ephrata Borough and suggested a grant request of 2 (two) additional officers. These officers would be designated as community policing officers. If awarded, the grant would cover up to 75% of salary and benefits for new officers but there would be a local 25% cash match from Ephrata Borough. The funding would cover the first 3 (three) years of new hire salary /benefits. After this period, salary/benefit funding would be the sole responsibility of the municipality. Council Member Linda Martin expressed concern with additional expenses to the Borough starting in the fourth year. Mayor Mowen explained that future retirements are expected so if the Borough did not want to fund the additional officers, they could be kept employed due to retirement attrition. The Public Safety Committee was in support of applying for the grant.
- 3. Emergency Management:** Randy Gockley provided a COVID-19 update and answered questions about upcoming special events planning. Kim Stonebraker, WellSpan-Ephrata Community Hospital, provided a COVID-19 hospital vaccination update.
- 4. Pioneer Fire Department Report:** President Kiefer provided an overview of the department's request to obtain Quick Response Service license in order to obtain Narcan for the protection of their members and others. The current District Attorney informed them that such a license was needed for them to be provided with Narcan. No objections from Council Members.

### **Old Business Items:**

- 1. Ordinance 123-1 Bee Hives Waiver:** Discussion was held by Council members of the waiver. Resident Jon Sullenberger of 1214 Marilyn Avenue reiterated his case for the bees and that opposition to him requesting a waiver is getting personal by others. Neighbor Gail Glatfelter (1220 Marilyn Avenue) reiterated her safety concerns about having the bees too close to other

neighboring properties. Neighbor Frank Kirkpatrick (1208 Marilyn Avenue) spoke in support of Mr. Sullenberger having bees. Chairman Reinhold commented that he approves of the ordinance prohibiting bee hives and that Mr. Sullenberger would have to make arrangements to remove the hives off the property. Councilman Richard commented that it would not be appropriate to make an acceptance to have bees in such a dense area and denied the waiver request. Councilman Ressler commented that public input on issues is important and agreed not to approve a waiver for the bee hives. The waiver for bee hives will not be granted and the hives located at 1214 Marilyn Avenue must be removed.

**Miscellaneous Items:** None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

DRAFT