

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

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**Members:** Buohl, Chairman; Martin, Vice Chairman; Aronson, Member; Barr, Alternate; McKim, Staff

**Attendees:** Committee: Buohl, Chairman; Martin, Vice Chairman; Aronson, Member; Barr, Alternate  
Council: Musser, Reinhold, Zimmerman  
Staff: McKim; Harris  
Guests: Randy Gockley – Borough EMC, Chief Richard Gehman – Lincoln Fire Company, John Schmidt – Mayor of Adamstown, Steve Aronson

The Public Safety Committee met on January 15, 2024, at 6:54 PM at Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Chief McKim provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough’s website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Borough business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Committee Chair Buohl asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Borough business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Buohl asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Ms. Aronson moved and Ms. Martin seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Action Items:**

1. Pursuit of PCCD Technology Grant – Chief McKim reported a recently announced Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) – The Committee agreed to allow the Police Department to pursue the grant.
2. Police Promotional Process – Chief McKim reported that budget money that had been intended for promotions in 2023 was not spent. The intention had been to pay a portion of the cost from 2023 some from 2024, in essence “bridging” the year. He requested permission to execute the agreement with the promotional consulting firm and approval of an unbudgeted expenditure of \$16,000 in pursuit of the process with the remainder to be spent from the 2024 budget. The Committee agreed to move forward the authorization to enter into the agreement and the unbudgeted expenditure of \$16,000.

### **Discussion Items:**

1. EMA Reports – November 2023 and December 2023. Mr. Gockley reported on the status of available emergency shelters in the Borough. Mr. Gockley continues to coordinate conversations with high occupancy entities regarding their plans for hasty evacuations. He reported a slight up-tick in COVID-19 at WellSpan ECH. He reported on the new status of the Red Cross availability to house displaced residents.

Chief Gehman reported on some leadership changes within the Lincoln Fire Company.

2. New Years Eve Event Review – Mr. Gockley reported on a successful New Years Eve Celebration. The principal safety-related leaders will discuss future events.
3. Police Reports – November 2023 and December 2023 – Chief McKim reviewed excellence in policing, common issues, officer appearances in the community, and his activities during those months. He further reported on some police activity trends, and on a very successful “Cookies with a Cop” event. Officer Martin’s work in identifying unknown suspects has been remarkable.
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget Review – Chief McKim reported that the Police Department came in under budget for the year.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

1. Nuisance Activity (Informational) – Chief McKim reported no noticeable issues with the shelter.
2. Cameras (Informational) – Chief McKim reported that the requested maps were provided to the security consultant.
3. Chairman Buohl reported that the Borough’s notification system generated good comments following the short power outage.