

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – APRIL 10, 2023

Members: Buohl, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; McKim, Staff

Attendees: Committee: Buohl, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member
Council: President Reinhold, Mr. Musser, Mr. Zimmerman, Ms. Martin, Mayor Mowen
Staff: Police Chief McKim, Borough Manager Nancy Harris,
Guests: Randy Gockley (EMA), Tony Haws (Ephrata Township), John Schmidt (Adamstown), Richard Gehman (Lincoln Fire Company), Mike Kiefer (Pioneer Fire Company) Emily Cleary, MaryCait Dorley, Violet DeStefano, Mike Gensemer, James Gehman, Lori Ann Kobzina, Kim Stonebraker

The Public Safety Committee met on March 20, 2023, at 6:30 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. There were none. Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Ressler seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Lori Ann Kobzina expressed concern about safety at the dog park as an infant had been brought there against the rules. She sought clarification on whom should be notified regarding the rules. She also suggested improved signage.

Borough Manager Harris agreed to post signage to indicate age restrictions and a non-emergency number for police. Mr. Ressler sought clarification regarding the method of reporting and to whom. Chief McKim recommended the police be notified for rules violations as they are memorialized by ordinance. The Chief explained that 911 is okay as well as the non-emergency dispatch number. Mr. Richard remarked that the rules are in place for safety and to abide by insurance requirements.

Action Items:

- 1. Adoption of Third-Party Inspection Agencies for Commercial Building Inspections and Plan Review**
The Committee heard Manager Harris' explanation of the staff recommendation regarding three (3) entities for commercial building inspections and plan review. The Committee was in agreement to move the recommendation forward to Council.
- 2. Approval for Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)**
The Committee agreed to move the CASPER Project forward to Council.

Discussion Items:

1. EMA February 2023 Report – EMA Manager Gockley reported that he continues to work on establishing emergency shelters in the Borough. He congratulated Deputy EM Sergeant Snively of the Ephrata PD for the outstanding training being offered in preparation for the upcoming active shooter drill. Kim Stonebraker of WellSpan reported single digits of COVID-19 patients in the hospital.
2. Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) Preparedness in Lancaster County – Representatives from LEMA presented the concept to study potential community needs in the event of a health emergency.
3. Monthly Report – Chief McKim reviewed the police report for the month of February 2023. Ms. Martin requested an overview of the significant issues and challenges facing the department in town.
4. Body-Worn Camera Cooperative Grant Partnership – Chief McKim introduced an upcoming grant opportunity that would allow the Department to expand the existing BWC program to allow a camera to be assigned to each officer rather than only patrol officer. Millersville University Police will spearhead the administration. McKim estimates the out-of-pocket expenses to be approximately \$20,000. McKim will seek additional funding sources to offset the costs.

Old Business Items:

1. Fire Call Annual Comparison – The Committee had been provided with the requested information from the prior voting session. Chief Kiefer reported the Company will have a Man Vs. Machine training and that they are implementing new software for ISO tracking, Incident Command, and accountability. The Company continues to provide fire safety tips to the community. They plan to distribute smoke detectors to areas of town that have had fire injuries. Chief Gehman reported an aggressive training program this year; 35 individuals have been trained in the Rescue Task Force concept. There is a change coming in July regarding fire reporting with new software. The new software will also collect pre-plans and inventory. Randy Gockley congratulated the cooperation between the various responding agencies on a recent unusual pedestrian incident.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Whistlestop Activity: Chief McKim reported one incident at the Whistlestop in the bathroom
2. Shelter Activity: Chief McKim reported two incidents at the emergency shelters, both resolved.

Adjournment: 7:28 PM

Next Meeting Date: Monday April 17, 2023– 6:30 PM