

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – MAY 10, 2021

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; Scot Sherbine; Theresa Caruthers (virtual)

The Public Safety Committee met on April 19, 2021, and discussed the following:

Action Items:

- 1. Ordinance 123-1 Bee Hive Waiver Request 1214 Marilyn Ave.:** Jon Sullenberger (resident of location) requested a waiver in order to possess bee hives. He provided information on the location and reason for the hives. Council members had discussion on the matter. Public Safety Committee conditionally approved the waiver for no more than 2 bee hives at the location and the hives could not be used for commercial purposes.
- 2. County Health Department Resolution:** Borough Manager Thompson provided an overview of the Manheim Township Board of Commissioners resolution supporting a county health department. Council members had discussion on the matter to include the following: Where would funding for such department come from? Would this new department be another layer of bureaucracy? Is there a use /need for this department? Public Safety Committee decided to invite an Ephrata WellSpan Community Hospital and county official to attend a future council meeting for discussion on this matter. No action at this time.
- 3. Resolution Amending Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations for the proceedings of the Police Civil Service Commission Relating to Certain Testing and Examination Requirements:** Public Safety Committee approved the resolution amending the Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Chief John Petrick provided an overview of the changes. He provided an overview of the upcoming Sergeant promotional process that was approved by the Ephrata Borough Civil Service Committee at their April 12, 2021 meeting.

Discussion Items:

- 1. Police Department Monthly Reports:** Chief John Petrick reviewed the March monthly reports. He highlighted the Excellence in Policing section of the report. He spoke of the department's participation in honoring 100 year old WWII veteran and the use of the department's drone during a multiple structure fire on Linda Terrace. He also spoke of the visit to Fulton Elementary School by Officer Davis. Officer Davis spent several hours talking to 4th graders about policing in an effort to build positive community relationships. Chief Petrick also reviewed mental health call volume for 2020 and 2021.
- 2. Emergency Management:** Randy Gockley reviewed the report with Council. He discussed the upcoming April 22 simulated tornado drill. He also provided a Covid 19 update and discussed brush fire concerns.

- 3. Repayment Agreement Regarding Pioneer Aerial Fire Apparatus:** Manager Bob Thompson provided an overview of this topic. He suggested a flexible 20-year lease agreement between the Borough and Pioneer Fire Company on this apparatus. Staff will develop a proposed lease agreement for review by Public Safety Committee.
- 4. Fee Assessed for PA State Police Services:** Mayor Mowen provided an overview of Gov Wolf's proposal on this matter. Public Safety Committee decided not to take action at this time.
- 5. Bill Information (History)-House Bill 606 (radar for Municipal Police Officers):** Chief John Petrick provided an overview of the legislative history of the bill. The bill moved out of the House Transportation Committee in March 2021 and is currently in the House Appropriations Committee. Chief Petrick will update Council on this bill's status.

Old Business Items: None

Miscellaneous Items: None