

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – JULY 10, 2023

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

Attendees: Committee: Buohl, Chairman; Ressler, Member

Council: Musser; Reinhold; Mowen

Staff: McKim; Harris

Guests: Kim Stonebraker, Assistant Chief James Gehman – Lincoln Fire Company, Matt Showalter

The Public Safety Committee met on June 19, 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. Seeing none, Mr. Buohl asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Ressler moved and Mr. Reinhold seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. Appointment of Police Officer Candidates – Chief McKim briefed the Committee on an unexpected change in eligibility with one of the three candidates approved for probationary employment at a prior meeting. Chief McKim requested that the Committee approve a replacement applicant from the certified eligibility list. This will be a conditional offer of employment pending the candidate's successful passing of a physical, psychological and drug screening examination. Additionally, the candidate must attend and graduate the Reading Police Academy and successfully complete all necessary Municipal Police Officer Education and Training Commission certification requirements. He will be subject to a one-year probation period commencing upon the date he graduates from the police academy.

The Committee will recommend a conditional offer of probationary employment for the position of Police Officer effective July 10, 2023, for Travis Rader.

Discussion Items:

1. Police Report – Chief McKim provided a summary of the monthly police report.
2. Security Cameras – The Committee inquired generally about the status of security cameras to help with solving crime around the Borough. Mayor Mowen encouraged the use of cameras to assist in public

safety. Chairman Buohl would like to explore consolidation of systems. President Reinhold would like to expand the existing camera capabilities. Staff to follow up.

Old Business Items:

1. Church and Main Pedestrian Accidents – The Committee noted that some of the trees at that intersection had been trimmed. Mr. Ressler requested a proactive approach from the police regarding difficult intersections' line of sight problems.
2. Fire Call Annual Comparison – These are being seen by Council via packets. Mr. Gehman reported on the busy past three (3) months. Chief McKim read an email regarding a large fire event from Randy Gockley.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Hiring Process Update – Covered in Action Items
2. There was discussion regarding the Independence Day fireworks as they relate to the dry weather conditions.
3. Chief McKim updated the Committee regarding the complaint of people camping behind Applebee's. The property owner will be trimming the trees.
4. The Committee discussed a recent report of property left in a stairwell at a downtown business. Police identified the owner of the property and warned against trespass.
5. Mr. Reinhold inquired about a sharp increase in arrests for the month of May. Chief McKim explained an increase in citations filed by the SRO. The trend is not expected to continue.

Adjournment: 7:11 PM

Next Meeting: Monday July 17, 2023 – 6:30 PM