

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

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

Attendees: Committee: Buohl, Chairman; Ressler, Member; Corey Musser, Thomas Reinhold

Council: Musser, Barr, Martin, Zimmerman

Staff: McKim; Harris

Guests: EMA Director Randy Gockley; Chief Richard Gehman, Lincoln Fire Company; John Schmidt – Mayor of Adamstown, Nancy Aronson

The Public Safety Committee met on August 21, 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. Richard moved, and Mr. Ressler seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items:

1. Quick Ticket Ordinance – Borough Manager Harris presented a recommendation for a Quick Ticket Ordinance to improve efficient and effective code enforcement. The Committee expressed a desire to educate the public on the new procedure. The Committee elected to move it forward.
2. 2021 International Property Maintenance Code Adoption Ordinance – Borough Manager Harris presented a recommendation for an ordinance to adopt appropriate updates in the code to address temporary structures, snow and ice removal, quick tickets and other necessities. The Committee elected to move it forward.

Discussion Items:

1. Emergency Management Report – Randy Gockley
 - Major PPL power outage on July 28, 2023. There was a substation explosion in Akron. There are 15-20 people in the Lincoln area of the Borough who are PPL customers. Mr. Gockley worked with the media to ensure there was no report of widespread outage in Ephrata Borough. He coordinated with Jim Summers of the Rec Center to serve as a cooling center for those residents who were now without electricity.
 - Week of August 1, 2023, Mr. Gockley was notified three times of decontaminations at WellSpan-ECH – one was a patient with bed bugs and another was exposure to pesticides. Both events

required patients and EMS to be decontaminated before entering the facility. This tied up the ambulances.

- August 8, 2023 – major fire in 500 Block of E. Main Street. Mr. Gockley reported excellent firefighting on the part of the fire companies and credited the Ephrata Police with the quick evacuation. Three police units were there before the fire personnel. The 18 displaced residents were comforted by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Most were in night clothes and only three had shoes on. Red Cross and Ephrata Area Social Services were summoned to assist – and exceeded expectations. A Go-Fund-Me was established by EASS to assist individuals in need.
2. Police Report - Chief McKim reviewed the monthly Police Report. Chairman Buohl inquired about updates regarding the Ephrata Township Contract progress. Chief McKim reported that a special meeting was scheduled for September 12, 2023, most likely at 7:00 PM at LCBC. Negotiations continue. There was discussion about a potential update to the existing curfew ordinance – mostly for procedure.
 3. Pioneer Fire Company's New Truck Use/Staffing Requirements – Fulton Street fire response was discussed.
 4. International Property Maintenance Code Update – handled under Action Items.
 5. Security Cameras (Informational) – Chief McKim reported that a meeting was scheduled with a security specialist for a consultation on cameras.

Miscellaneous Items:

Chairman Buohl mentioned the popsicle event at Ephrata Township Park was a positive project.

Adjournment: 7:24 PM

Next Meeting: **Monday, September 18, 2023 – 6:30 PM**