

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – OCTOBER 11, 2021

Members: Reinhold, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Barr, Alternate; Petrick, Staff

Attendees: Reinhold, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Barr, Alternate; Council Members: President Rowe; Martin; Zimmerman; Dudley; Mayor Mowen; Adamstown Mayor Schmidt; Staff: Petrick; R. Gockley; 8 Guests (Chief M. Kiefer, Chief Richard Gehman, Kim Stonebraker, Matt Showalter, Laura Martin, James Gehman, Rebecca Beres, Teresa Caruthers)

The Public Safety Committee met on September 20, 2021, and Chairman Reinhold commenced it at 6:40 PM. He informed the Committee that under Act 65 of 2021 the agenda needed to be approved as advertised. Motion made by Mr. Richard and seconded by Mr. Ressler. Motion passed unanimously. Chief John Petrick informed those present that the meeting was being recorded. The following items were discussed:

Action Items:

None

Discussion Items:

- 2022 Police Officer Hiring:** Chief John Petrick informed the Committee that one police officer will be retiring in July 2022 due to the DROP (police retirement program) and other officers are eligible to retire in 2022 as well. He stated that the department needs to be prepared to fill these vacancies. He stated that the Lancaster Police Chiefs Consortium testing process took place in September. The Department uses the testing process to hire officers. Therefore, an eligibility list of applicants will need to be created by the Civil Service Commission to fill the vacancies. There were no questions from those present. At this time, Mr. Richard was excused from the meeting.
- Monthly Police Reports:** Chief Petrick provided an overview of the Monthly Patrol Services Report. He reviewed accident data and citation activity. He also reviewed the actions by officers regarding the storm that took place on August 14th. Officers worked with fire police to address roadway closures. Chief Petrick addressed an additional Excellence in Policing monthly item that dealt with a suicide. He stated that Detective Quinn went above his investigative duties by following up with the deceased's family with support and compassion.

Chief Petrick stated that the Department is preparing for the upcoming Fair and reviewed the monthly Support Services Report. He stated that two cases were reported to the Youth Aid Panel. Chairman Reinhold commented on the Excellence in Policing and Detective Quinn's actions. Mr. Ressler commented on the excellent report.
- Monthly Emergency Management Report:** In Randy Gockley's absence, Kim Stonebraker provided an update. She informed the Committee that during the recent storm, some homes along Bellevue Avenue were affected. She provided a WellSpan Ephrata Hospital update. She stated that the hospital has seen a significant increase in COVID patients and they currently have 19 COVID patients with three of them in ICU. Mayor Mowen asked about WellSpan Hospital's recommendation on the booster shot. Kim Stonebraker replied that they are recommending following CDC guidelines. Chairman Reinhold asked about past COVID

figures. Kim Stonebraker responded that last month there were 20 COVID patients. The maximum number at one time has been 28. She also stated that they are looking into how to distribute the upcoming booster shot. Adamstown Mayor Schmidt asked Kim Stonebraker about the hospital's staffing and service levels with everything that is happening. Stonebraker responded that there have been no changes.

4. **Lincoln Fire Company Update:** Chief Richard Gehman proceeded to provide an update on current and future projects of the fire company. He stated that they are ramping up their public education on fire safety and have plans to visit three public schools and the rest being private. More will be done than last year due to COVID. He stated that a consultant was hired to review the fire company's bylaws and SOG (standard operating guideline) and modernize them. It is a 1- to 2-year project and will start in October. He also stated that President Ritter has formed an engine research committee for engine 1. The committee will review when and how to replace the 29-year-old engine. There has been an increase in maintenance this year on this existing engine. He also stated that they have been looking into obtaining the QRS License (Quick Response License). He stated that Lincoln Fire Company has been carrying around medical equipment for many years. The three Lincoln Chiefs had a meeting with the EMS Region Director about QRS licensing. Following that meeting, the Chiefs made a recommendation to the fire company to obtain such license. He stated that many times, they get involved in patient care such as cardiac arrest. They have used Narcan for cardiac arrests related to overdoses. The medical equipment is used to protect fire personnel, but they will also use it for the public. The public will not be denied medical care. Lincoln Fire Company also gets involved in heavy rescue incidents. The QRS license will provide the fire company with not only a certification level of standard of care, but also standard training and equipment levels. The license will define items for them to follow. There will be a medical director overseeing items. He stated that \$750 was budgeted for four pieces of medical apparatus equipment related to QRS. Their current training either meets or exceeds current QRS standards. He reviewed medical care certifications of members with the Committee. He stated that the fire company already has medical malpractice insurance and local notifications of the QRS license are being made. Certification should occur in the second half of October.

Mayor Mowen asked Chief Kiefer about Pioneer Fire Company's QRS status. Chief Kiefer stated that they are in the process of obtaining the QRS license. They had a difficult time locating a medical director. Chief Kiefer provided an update on the recent hurricane that came through the area. He updated the Committee about in-quarters staffing of fire personnel (6:00 PM to 7:00 AM set-up night and 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM other nights) during the upcoming Fair event.

Chairman Reinhold adjourned Public Safety Committee meeting at 7:24 PM.