

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – NOVEMBER 8, 2021

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

**Attendees:** Reinhold, Chairman; Richard, Vice Chairman; Ressler, Member; Barr, Alternate; Council Members: Martin; Zimmerman; Dudley; Mayor Mowen; Adamstown Mayor Schmidt; Staff: Petrick; Thompson; R. Gockley; Attendees: Chief M. Kiefer; Kim Stonebraker; Rebecca Beres; Teresa Caruthers

The Public Safety Committee met on October 18, 2021, and Chairman Reinhold commenced it at 6:45 PM. He informed the Committee that under Act 65 of 2021, the agenda needed to be approved as advertised. He also stated the rules of order. Motion made by Mr. Richard and seconded by Mr. Ressler to approve the meeting agenda as advertised. Motion passed unanimously. The following items were discussed:

### **Action Items:**

None

### **Discussion Items:**

- 1. Monthly Police Reports:** Chief John Petrick reviewed the Monthly Patrol Report and Support Services Group reports with the Committee. Chief Petrick stated that 22 arrests were made and 53 traffic citations were issued. Chief Petrick provided an overview of the Excellence in Policing portion of the report. He discussed the impromptu training that Officer Wene conducted on “room clearing” in the event of a critical incident. He also mentioned that officers pre-planned and executed an arrest warrant on a subject from Texas for aggravated assault. Also mentioned was a cardiac arrest incident at Gus’s Restaurant in which officers deployed a defibrillator and conducted an AED shock, conducted CPR and the person regained a pulse and was later discharged from the hospital. Chief Petrick also mentioned there was other Excellence in Policing events listed in the report.

Chief Petrick stated that although there are times when we assist other police agencies, we were recently assisted by another department. The outside agency officer conducted a vehicle inspection on a vehicle that was involved in a severe accident. Chief Petrick stated that the department’s officer trained in vehicle inspections is currently on military deployment.

He also stated that several speed enforcement details were conducted along South State Street and numerous citations were issued.

Chairman Reinhold inquired due to our trained officer (vehicle inspector) being on military leave and will be out for some time, are there any other officer(s) trained to conduct vehicle inspections; in which, Chief Petrick advised this resource was used since it is an area of specialty and needed to conduct our due diligence with this investigation. Chief Petrick informed the Committee that he could re-evaluate the need for an additional vehicle inspector as time goes on.

Mr. Barr was pleased with the department’s progress on S. State Street to slow vehicles and to slow people down. Chief Petrick mentioned the vehicle stops increase visibility and is pro-active policing.

Chief Petrick reviewed the Support Services Report mentioning the drone use for the Ephrata Fair as well as at serious accidents. He also commented on the enjoyable Ephrata Fair and shared that positive comments were received regarding our officers' presence at the event. Chief Petrick advised officers will be given safety stickers for distribution to children at next year's fair.

There were comments from Council or the public regarding the Chief's report.

- 2. Monthly Emergency Management Report:** Randy Gockley stated that Ephrata Borough, as well as Lancaster County, is now eligible for low interest Small Business Administration loans for damage done by Hurricane Ida. Individuals have until December 6, 2021, to register and submit their applications and the deadline for economic injury is July 6, 2022. He distributed this info to the two homes that were damaged on Bellevue Avenue. The loans are for major damage and not for a few inches of water damage. He also stated that the library has a soundproof booth where individuals with mental health concerns can receive needed services in times of crisis via WellSpan system, specifically Philhaven.

He is also working with MainSpring of Ephrata on the safety plan for the Veteran's Day event as well as the upcoming Santa Claus event.

Member Linda Martin inquired about the "Talk Tank" and referrals without availability of a counselor. Randy Gockley stated that they are proving choices for counselors to contact in their expertise. Ms. Martin was concerned about availability of appointments. Ms. Martin appreciated this community resource.

Chairman Reinhold appreciated Mr. Gockley's information on the Borough Emergency Management social media page. He also stated that telehealth is important for people in need.

Kim Stonebraker provided a hospital update on COVID patients. At this time there are 22 COVID-19 in-house patients and hospitals remain full around the county. She stated that COVID is not necessarily the sole factor for the patient increase. The highest COVID-19 patient number was 36. Mr. Ressler inquired about the booster COVID shot at the hospital. Ms. Stonebraker stated that boosters are available by appointment and to go to "My WellSpan" for appointments. Mr. Richard inquired about the company name for the booster. Mr. Barr discussed his experience with the COVID-19 hotline to get the shot. Mayor Mowen commented that he has seen how busy the emergency room is by his experience seeing it when he visited his wife in the hospital. Mr. Zimmerman asked Ms. Stonebraker about staffing issues and she replied that nothing that impacts patient care.

Ms. Caruthers inquired if there was a lead program regarding safety. Ms. Stonebraker responded that during home inspections during turnover is usually looked into. Discussions took place on where lead issues are captured, possibly at the pediatrician's office. Chairman Reinhold stated that Public Safety Committee would listen to worthwhile ideas. Ms. Stonebraker stated that concerns could be brought up at a pediatrician visit.

- 3. Quarterly Police Budget Report:** Chief John Petrick reviewed the Third Quarter 2021 Budget Review. He stated that revenues were 83.75% and expenditures were at 72.26% which was

below the 75% for the quarter. Mr. Richard inquired about the status of the Fire Commission. Mr. Bob Thompson stated that “we are not.” Mr. Richard replied, “... that is what I thought.” No other questions or comments were made.

- 4. Officer Resignation Update:** Chief John Petrick informed the Committee that Officer Jeffrey King tendered his voluntary resignation effective October 26, 2021. Chief Petrick stated that he would like to proceed with filling this vacancy and preparing for the known DROP officer vacancy that will occur in July 2022. Borough Civil Service Code states that Borough Council shall notify the Commission of this vacancy. He informed the Committee of the County Consortium testing that occurred and the plan is to move forward into the oral board phase. Chairman Reinhold said it was unfortunate that this was a newer officer and inquired about the latest hire. Mr. Richard asked if this was a new officer. Chief Petrick responded that is not the most recent hire, but the one before him. Mr. Richard asked if the officer was going to another department; in which, the Chief restated it was a voluntary resignation.

Chairman Reinhold asked Fire Chief Kiefer if he wanted to mention any items. Chief Kiefer updated the Committee that the damaged truck should be back by the end of the month. He also finished drafting an active shooter SOG and submitted it to Chief Petrick. His fire company was also involved in the Gus’ medical assist that Chief Petrick mentioned. Chairman Reinhold inquired if the fire company is involved with removing Santa from the roof for the upcoming event. Chief Kiefer stated that due to safety reasons, Santa is no longer brought down. The event has gotten too big to control the crowd safely with the fire apparatus. Member Martin commented that the event brings in a lot of people and, therefore, the plans needed changed for safety. Mr. Ressler asked if the new truck is in production. Chief Kiefer could not provide a definite answer due to the issue of not knowing when all the materials would be on scene before production can take place. Mr. Richard asked if there were any out-of-pocket expenses to repair the damaged truck and Chief Kiefer responded no at this time.

Mayor Mowen stated the VFW Jack Frost Parade will take place on October 27 and the Chief and he will once again be judges. The event will take place at 7:00 PM. Chief Petrick stated that Trick or Treat Night will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor stated that the Truck or Treat event will take place in the Borough parking lot on the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Petrick reminded the Committee to view the Department’s Facebook page where there are safety tips as well as what the police department is doing. Also, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and there are resources on the page encourage all to pass along the information.

No other meeting items were discussed.

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