

DRAFT

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

May 18, 2015 @ 3:00 PM

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Committee members: Chairman Graham Weaver, Becky Brown, and Scot Pitzer; Mayor William Troxell; Planning Director Scott Dellett; Police Chief Joe Dougherty; and Management Assistant Karen Mesher.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael Birkner, Borough Council President First Ward; John Butterfield, Borough Council Member Third Ward; Susan Naugle, Borough Council Member Third Ward; and Jim Hale, representing the *Gettysburg Times*.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Committee approved the March 16, 2015 minutes. There was no meeting in April.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There was no public comment.

**REPORTS:**

**Enforcement of No 53' Trailers through the Center of Gettysburg**

Chief Dougherty said that the issue has been brought before Council several times over the past few years, but Borough Council as a whole has not addressed the issue. He noted that although this is a violation of the Motor Vehicle Code, he felt uneasy enforcing this prohibition based on the wishes of one or two Council members. All violations are based upon the discretion of the officers, but enforcement would include all vehicles including large construction trailers. He said that he would enforce this prohibition based on a general consensus from Borough Council.

Mr. Weaver stated that there is a federal bill suggesting to increase truck length to by 17 feet and 12,000 lbs. in weight. He said that Melissa Wolf, Regional Director of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT), stated in her email (see attached) that 53-foot single trailer trucks would be replaced by more dangerous Twin 33s, making our roads less safe. Mr. Weaver said that Council needs to look at the impact and damage to the Borough by these large 53' trucks. Chief Dougherty noted that the Highway Department receives a copy of the accident report/incident report for insurance purposes.

Mr. Dellett asked if officers need specialized training to enforce this prohibition. Chief Dougherty said yes, depending on the type of enforcement; and that officers would have to be certified to measure height and weight of the trucks and to inspect log books. Mayor

May 18, 2015

Public Safety Committee: Graham Weaver, Chairman; Rebecca Brown and Scot Pitzer

Page 1 of 3

Troxell said that the Gettysburg Borough Police Department had a truck detail unit years ago, but the unit was disbanded and the equipment was sold.

Mr. Butterfield stated that he discussed truck enforcement and signage with Trooper Larry Byrd from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) (see attachments). Mr. Butterfield stated that Trooper Byrd confirmed that the Borough Police have enforcement authority and can use appropriate sections of the vehicle code (PMV Section 3111a) if they observed a violation taking place, and that the citation is \$170.00. He said that the Borough does in fact have the proper signage according to PennDOT on Routes 30, 34 and 97 and that they are easily visible to truck drivers. He noted that tractor trailers pulling dual (twin) trailers 102" wide and a tractor trailer 102' wide and in excess of 48" long were prohibited by state law from transiting Lincoln Square. He emphasized that the cost of replacing decorative street lights (\$3400.00) and pedestrian signals (\$180.00) is costly to the Borough. He stated that this common truck route needs to be enforced.

Chief Dougherty stated that the Police Department cannot do spot enforcement. His officers would need to measure the trucks to determine the 53' length for testimony in court if necessary. Mr. Butterfield stated that the statute is on the books, and enforcement is necessary to deter travel by these oversized trucks that cause damage. Mr. Birkner said that there is no reason not to enforce this prohibition. Chief Dougherty said that he would enforce this prohibition if that is what Council wants.

Mr. Weaver recommended that a full Council pass a resolution requiring enforcement of this state statute by our police department. Mr. Pitzer said that enforcing this prohibition is no different than enforcing other laws, like DUI laws. Mr. Birkner said that this is not a new issue for Council, and said that a general consensus by Council is needed to enforce this law. Mr. Butterfield said that Council just needs to ask our police department to enforce it, and to provide a report highlighting enforcement (truck report statistics would replace the Special Events Report compiled by the Chief). Mr. Weaver said that with six Councilors present at this meeting, the general consensus was to enforce this state statute. Chief Dougherty said that he would meet with Sergeant Runk to develop an enforcement procedure.

### **Unpaid Parking Ticket Collection**

Ms. Mesher stated that the Borough Parking Department was informed by PSP that it had received its limited access ORI number today. She asked that the Police Department continue to file citations until Parking personnel are trained on using the CLEAN System by the County Department of Emergency Services. She said that PSP also notified the AOPC (Pennsylvania Courts) about our ORI number and that we can begin preparing for e-filing our traffic citations. She thanked Chief Dougherty for his assistance in filing citations during this transition time.

May 18, 2015

Public Safety Committee: Graham Weaver, Chairman; Rebecca Brown and Scot Pitzer

Page 2 of 3

**Status of Body Camera Acquisition**

Chief Dougherty stated that Officer Folster is still evaluating the body camera system, noting that he has trained other officers for their input. Officer Folster identified some weaknesses, and is researching other equipment. Chief Dougherty is seeking guidance from the International Chiefs of Police, Police Chiefs Forum, ACLU, and the District Attorney Office for information on writing policies and procedures. He noted that there is federal grant money available. He said that Officer Folster will write an evaluation on the use of this particular equipment, which can be used as a vehicle camera as well. Ms. Naugle stated that state HB420 included a method to fund cameras with forfeiture of property for PSP, so the possibility of funding exists.

**Unfinished Business:**

There was no unfinished business.

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

With no further business the Committee adjourned the meeting at 3:50 PM.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 3PM.

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
Graham Weaver, Chairman

Hi Councilman Weaver,

Thank you for your note! I appreciate the follow up and I would love to update you. Currently, we are anticipating Congress will extend MAP-21 (our transportation re-authorization bill) and not pass a new funding bill (which is where we were expecting truck size and weight increases to be included). However, two weeks ago, the House Appropriations Committee introduced a bill to increase the current Twin 28 trailers on our roads to Twin 33s, an increase of 17 feet over single trailer trucks. This configuration will run not only on our interstates, but also on roads on the Designated National Network and any local, county or city road that provides reasonable access to the Designated National Network – even if states determine they cannot safely accommodate these trucks, they have to provide reasonable access for loading, unloading, fuel, rest, etc. These trucks will also be about 12,000 pounds heavier. Current Twin 28's weigh out at about 68,000 pounds, but with the extra length, they will weight out at 80,000 pounds. This federal proposal overrides state laws (they are federally mandated); these trucks would be much longer than today's standard trucks and will add new dangers to the highway. Attached is some information on this proposal, please feel free to share with the public safety committee.

Due to gains in cubic capacity, a significant number of 53-foot single-trailer trucks would be replaced by more dangerous Twin 33s, making our roads less safe:

- *These double-trailer trucks are 17 feet longer, and have two more articulation points, than the single-trailer trucks they would replace, making them significantly more dangerous than single-trailer trucks due to poorer stability and control*
  
- *A 2000 U.S. Department of Transportation study concluded multi-trailer trucks have an 11 percent higher fatal crash rate than single-trailer trucks*
  
- *Multi-trailer trucks create a larger crash area when involved in an accident, often called the "crash footprint," which becomes more severe with the longer trailers of the "Twin 33s" configuration. Trucks with multiple trailers are also more likely to experience trailer separation, which extends the area of a crash*
  
- *The increased length and turning radius of these trucks versus the current Twin 28s will cause more infrastructure and road damage when using state, county and local roads*

*Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or comments or would like anymore information on this proposal! Thank you again Councilman!*

*Melissa*

Melissa Wolf  
Regional Director  
**CABT - Coalition Against Bigger Trucks**  
1001 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 515  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
mobile: 651-214-5493  
[mwolf@cabt.org](mailto:mwolf@cabt.org)

1 May 2015

Memo For The Record

Subj.: 53' tractor trailers transiting Lincoln Square.

I contacted the PA. State Police (PSP) and received the e-mail message at attachment #1. Subsequently I traveled Route 30 & confirmed that the signs that Trooper Byrd referenced are in place & easily visible (see attachments #2 and #3). Similar signs are posted on roads leading into the Boro from the north & south (Rts. 34 & 97).

I contacted PennDOT to find out exactly what the signs mean. They explained that tractors pulling dual (twin) trailers 102" wide were prohibited and a tractor pulling a trailer 102" wide and in excess of 48' in length were prohibited from transiting Lincoln Square. The dimensions of a standard trailer are 102" wide and 53' long (attachment #4). Some states require the marking of the length of trailers using their highways. Thus the numbers "53" are prominently displayed on most trailers near the front and on both sides of the trailer (attachment #5). Subsequently I obtained "The PennDOT Truckers Guide" & "Surface Transportation Assistance Act" truck routes which confirmed what PennDOT & the PSP had told me.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> e-mail (atch. 6) from Trooper Byrd confirmed that the Boro police have enforcement authority and can use appropriate sections of the vehicle code if they observe a violation taking place.

Bottom line: tractors pulling 2 trailers 102" wide and a single trailer longer than 48' are prohibited by state law from transiting Gettysburg's Lincoln Square. The costs of replacing decorative street lights & pedestrian signals as listed by Danny Hilliard are not inconsequential (atch. ~~6~~<sub>7</sub>).

Questions:

1. Is the GPD enforcing this prohibition? If not, why?
2. If the GPD is enforcing this prohibition, how many drivers have been ticketed in the past year?

  
**John Butterfield**

---

**From:** "Byrd, Lawrence D" <LABYRD@pa.gov>  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 9:13 AM  
**To:** <johnbd@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** "Byrd, Lawrence D" <LABYRD@pa.gov>  
**Subject:** Tractor-Trailers

Mr. Butterfield,

There are signs posted on Route 30. Westbound sign is across from Sheets and the eastbound sign is out at Cashtown and then again by Reynolds Ave.

They can be cited for 3111(a) Obedience to Traffic Control Devices. Which is \$ 170.00 citation. I would contact Penndot about the signs and what else can be done. I hope this helps.

I will be away until April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Trooper Larry BYRD

3/24/2015

ATCH #1

PROHIBITED  
102 TWINS  
102 TRAILERS  
OVER 48 FT  
1 1/4 MILE  
AHEAD

18/03/2015

ATE#2

PROHIBITED  
102' TWINS  
& TRAILERS  
OVER 48 FT

TOOL & EQUIPMENT  
RENTAL  
PARTY BLENDED  
EVENT PLANNING

WINDY  
& WINDY  
FESTIVAL

12/04/2015

ATLANTA

US | CAN | LIVECHAT  
[Ship](#)

[LOGIN](#)

**Weather Alert:** Real-time information on freeze embargoes, closures and limited operations due to weather. [Learn More](#)  
[Track](#) <http://www.yrc.com/weather-related-terminal-closures/>

[Manage](#) (YRC.COM) » TRAILER DIMENSIONS

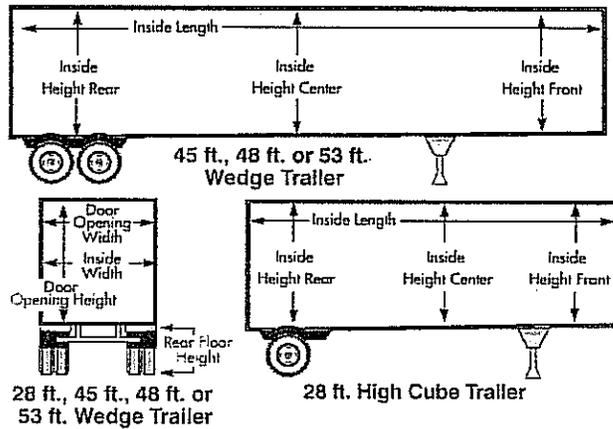
# Trailer Dimensions

[Services](#)

**FIND A ROUTE GET A QUOTE REQUEST A PICKUP TRACK A SHIPMENT**  
[About](#)

**Here, you'll find tractor-trailer dimensions to help you plan your LTL shipments with YRC Freight.**

Find how to [calculate your shipment's density](#)  
 (<https://my.yrc.com/national/html/densityCalculation.shtml>).



Semi-Trailer Dimensions

	Length	Inside Width	Inside Height Rear	Inside Height Center	Inside Height Front	Door Opening Width	Door Opening Height	Rear Floor Height	Cubic Capacity	Overall Width	Overall Height
28' High Cube	27'3"	100"	110"	109"	107"	93"	104"	47-1/2"	2029 cft	102"	13'6"
45' Wedge	44'1-1/2"	93"	112"	109"	106"	87"	105-1/2"	58"	3883 cft	96"	13'6"
48' Wedge	47'3"	99"	112-1/2"	110-1/2"	108-1/2"	93"	105"	48-1/2"	3586 cft	102"	13'6"
53' Wedge	52'	99"	111"	110-1/2"	110"	93"	105"	49"	4050 cft	102"	13'6"
53'	52'	99"	110-1/4"	110-1/4"	110-1/4"	93"	105"	49"	4050 cft	102"	13'6"

Water  
Trailer

53

347-422-0000

Waterlife

Waterlife  
WATERLIFE  
WATERLIFE

19/03/2015

#1

**John Butterfield**

---

**From:** "Byrd, Lawrence D" <LABYRD@pa.gov>  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2015 7:43 AM  
**To:** "John Butterfield" <johnbd@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** "Byrd, Lawrence D" <LABYRD@pa.gov>; "Haag, Kurt J" <khaag@pa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Tractor-Trailers

The 310 stands for the area, of the road. It's a location indicator for Penndot. Yes, the borough officers can enforce it. They can use vehicle code section 3111(a) or 4908.

**From:** John Butterfield [mailto:johnbd@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2015 9:29 PM  
**To:** Byrd, Lawrence D  
**Subject:** Re: Tractor-Trailers

Trooper Byrd:

I hate to bother you again but I have a couple more questions about the signs prohibiting 53' trailers from going thru the Gettysburg square.

1. Below the "Prohibited" sign on the left leg is a smaller sign saying "SR 30" & below it are the numeral's "310". I assume "SR 30" stands for State Road 30 but what does "310" stand for?

2. Am I correct in believing that the Boro police have full authority to stop & ticket trucks violating the prohibition listed on the sign?

Thanks much for taking the time to respond.

John Butterfield

**From:** Byrd, Lawrence D  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 02, 2015 6:06 AM  
**To:** 'John Butterfield'  
**Subject:** RE: Tractor-Trailers  
Mr. Butterfield,

I am not sure who is the Foreman at Penndot. Their phone number is 717-334-3155.

Trooper BYRD

**From:** John Butterfield [mailto:johnbd@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 7:53 AM  
**To:** Byrd, Lawrence D

4/18/2015

Area #6

## Damage By 53' Trucks Thru Lincoln Square

- Trucks & trailers over 102" wide are prohibited.
- Trailers longer than 48' are prohibited.
- Decorative streetlight replacement cost is approximately \$3400.00 excluding installation labor.
- Pedestrian signal replacement cost is approximately \$180.00 excluding installation labor.
- Decorative granite curbing is very badly damaged.

Danny Hilliard