

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 20, 2015 @ 3:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Committee members: Chairman Graham Weaver, Becky Brown, and Scot Pitzer; Mayor William Troxell; Borough Manager Charles Gable; 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; Attorney Bernie Yannetti Hartman and Yannetti, 126 Baltimore Street: and Jim Hale, representing the *Gettysburg Times*.

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee approved the May 18, 2015 minutes. There was no meeting in June.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Attorney Bernie Yannetti addressed the issues concerning 102 foot wide trucks and how they impact local business deliveries. He said that several clients are concerned about enforcement with respect to their drivers. He named Kennies Markets, SpectraKote Corporation, NAPA Auto Parts and the local beer stores who had expressed their concerns. Mr. Yannetti asked that he be included in any future group discussions. Mr. Weaver said that these large trucks cause damage to our town's governmental infrastructure and affect private citizens' property. He did note that he did not want to inhibit deliveries to local businesses. Mr. Pitzer said that Gettysburg is the only town in PennDOT District 8 with this type of truck prohibition. He suggested that the Borough move further with research before enforcement is implemented.

REPORTS:

Civil Service Commission to Begin a Testing Procedure for Sergeants

Chief Dougherty requested that the Committee recommend to Borough Council the Civil Service testing begin for Sergeant. The Committee agreed and would make the recommendation at the next council meeting.

Request to Make Wall Alley a One-Way Alley

A citizen from Baltimore Street had requested that Wall Alley, located behind the Borough building, be made a one-way alley from Stratton Street to School House Alley for safety reasons. After speaking with Highway Superintendent Daniel Hilliard, Chief Dougherty recommended that traffic be considered one-way east bound from

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Schoolhouse Alley to Stratton Street due to sight limitations from the steep hill. Manager Gable said that it was a reasonable request, and that plowing snow would be easier downhill. Ms. Brown said that the surrounding businesses, like the Presbyterian Church, Puhl Eastman and Thrasher Attorneys, and ERA Preferred Properties should be consulted for their input.

Enforcement of No 53' Trailers through the Center of Gettysburg

Chief Dougherty said his officers would continue to monitor truck traffic through the Borough and issue warnings if necessary. He reported that there were two accidents involving over width trailers, and that the one involving Borough property was cited. Mr. Weaver said that the impact on infrastructure needed to be considered, but he wanted to protect deliveries to local business. Mr. Pitzer said that this issues will be discussed at the state level, and how the law is defined and enforced. He noted that there is a need to identify someone from PennDOT to address this issue. Council President Birkner said that a way must be found to accommodate business owners who require deliveries from these large trucks. He said that these large trucks do impact our 19th Century infrastructure and that their use of Route 30 as a turnpike does damage our town. He applauded the Chief's efforts in educating truckers regarding this issue. Mr. Butterfield said that there had been no recent discussion with local representatives. He said that the distinction between a directive that does not require legislative action and a statute regarding the prohibition of these large trucks needs to be clarified. He noted that any action would reduce congestion and gridlock on Lincoln Square, and that a directive from PennDOT may redirect the route. Mr. Weaver said that more information is needed from the legislative level before the Committee could proceed with this issue.

Status of Draft Ordinance and Workshop Regarding Transient Retail Vendors

Mr. Butterfield said that the draft ordinance regarding Transient Retail Vendors was an open item that Solicitor Eastman had for this Committee. Mr. Weaver said that he would contact Solicitor Eastman regarding any activity. Manager Gable said that the issue had not been addressed by staff recently. Ms. Brown said that there was an urgency to address this issue now.

Hazards Caused by Utility Poles on Steinwehr Avenue

Mr. Weaver asked if any pedestrians had walked into the utility poles in the center of the sidewalks on Steinwehr Avenue. Chief Dougherty said that he had no reports of any incidents regarding this hazard. President Birkner said that there probably won't be a large body of information regarding this hazard, but pedestrians using technology while walking has increased the possibility. He did state that we have to be proactive on this issue, especially concerning the egress issue and safe passage on our sidewalks. Mr. Pitzer asked if there was an interest from the Steinwehr Avenue Bid regarding the pole removal. Ms. Brown said that the BID representatives want to do this. President Birkner said that the Bid is matching Borough funds to address this issue.

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Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

There was no new business.

With no further business the Committee adjourned the meeting at 3:52 PM.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, August 17, 2015 at 3PM.

Approved by _____
Graham Weaver, Chairman