

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 16, 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; Planning Director Scott Dellett and Management Assistant Karen Mesher.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Butterfield, Borough Council Member Third Ward; and Jim Hale, representing the *Gettysburg Times*.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Committee approved the August 17, 2015 minutes. (The Committee did not meet in September and October)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment

POLICE REPORTS:

Update on Police Department Corporal Scheduling Plans

Chief Joe Dougherty explained the planned changes in command structure for his department, and stated that he is working on a job description for the position of Corporal. He said that currently, the department has two squads consisting of one sergeant and four patrol officers per shift. The proposed change would delineate the department with one sergeant overseeing the department as a whole, plus a corporal and three patrol officers for each shift. He explained that the corporal would be responsible for road duty rotating between squads, and assume less of an administrative role. Manager Gable stated that the corporal exam could not be advertised until the job description was in place. Mr. Pitzer asked if the younger officers left due to lack of mobility. Chief Dougherty said that both the lack of mobility and pay factored into their decision to leave and seek job opportunities elsewhere. Mr. Pitzer asked if the police department was hiring another officer. Chief Dougherty replied yes.

Status of Policy and Procedure for Body Cameras

Borough Manager Gable said that the policy and procedure for their use is still under review by the Borough Solicitor. He noted that the topic will be discussed at the regular meeting of the Solicitor's administrative meeting on ordinances. Ms. Brown asked when each officer will have one to use. Chief Dougherty said that the cameras can be purchased now thanks to a \$3,400 donation by the Gettysburg American Legion Post 202.

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New Police Officers Visible in Town

Chief Dougherty said that three part-time officers are currently in field training for the Borough.

Request for New Police Car and Weapons

Chief Dougherty stated that he had requested the routine replacement of handguns, shotguns and stun-guns. He noted that the older firearms are malfunctioning on the range and needed to be replaced. He would like to purchase six new shotguns and trade-in the old guns. He stated that he would like to replace the old Glock handguns with newer Glock 40s, and add three new Tasers. He said that the department planned to lease two new vehicles, pointing out that the lease program would cover vehicle maintenance. He said that the department currently has seven vehicles in its fleet, noting that each squad has two cars to spread out vehicle usage. He said that our Highway Foreman performs routine maintenance on the police fleet. Chief Dougherty discussed the current work shifts of his squads. Mr. Pitzer asked what kind of duties officers perform during their shifts. Chief Dougherty said it varies daily, but a typical shift could include: foot patrol, monitoring tour groups, business and bank checks in addition to their routine patrol duties.

HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE CONCERNS:

Planning Director Dellett commented on the concerns raised by the current carriage companies over pick-up and drop-off locations. He said that the Victorian Carriage Company had to relocate their position due to the construction of the Appalachian Brewing Company (ABC) Restaurant on Steinwehr Avenue. He said that their effort to find an alternative site caused concern for the other two carriage companies located in a small block on Baltimore Street between Lefever Street and Locust Avenue, and had resulted in a complaint to the police department. Chief Dougherty said that he had sent letters to all three carriage companies outlining the carriage ordinance regarding parking and pick-up / drop-off locations. He said that he stressed that there are not any assigned parking spaces, and that these loading points are to be claimed on a first-come, first-served basis in the designated areas. Manager Gable suggested imposing a ceiling on the number of carriage companies operating within the Borough limits to avoid safety issues for these loading areas and other traffic concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Manager Gable said that leaf collection in town would begin in full force today. He also stated that the lighting of the Christmas tree will take place on Monday, November 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

With no further business the Committee adjourned the meeting at 3:40 PM.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 3PM.

Approved by _____
Graham Weaver, Chairman