

# Public Safety Committee

November 18, 2008

6:00 PM

Chairperson: Jerry Walter

Council Chambers

## Minutes

### In Attendance:

Jerry Walter, Chairperson	Mayor George Doscher
Jane Braunlich, Member	Matthew Sentner, Police Chief
Michael Kutschbach, Member	Connie Flasher, DAS
Glen Pritchard, Fire Chief	Mike Lutz, CEO
Dave Gillingham, Visitor	Kathy Coder, President

**Jerry Walter called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.**

### Citizens:

❖ Nothing at this time.

### Mayor:

❖ Nothing at this time.

### Fire Department:

- ❖ The Committee discussed the reason that the Fire Marshall Resolution was brought back to the Committee.
  - The Committee made a motion to write three resolutions; one appointing a Fire Marshall and two resolutions to appoint two Deputy Fire Marshalls.
- ❖ The Committee discussed the proposed Knox Box Resolution.
  - Mr. Walter stated it may be better having the use of the Knox Boxes for businesses as optional rather than mandatory.
  - Chief Pritchard stated he would like to review this further.
  - Mr. Walter suggested that the owners of the buildings could have the option of purchasing a Knox Box and if they choose not to, their keys will be returned.
  - There was further discussion by the Committee.
  - There was discussion about the amounts of the fines for false alarms.
  - There was discussion by the Committee about what the Fire Department's current procedure is for gaining entrance into a building when no one can be contacted to let them in.
  - Mr. Walter questioned if letters can be sent out letting the property owners know the Borough is looking to enact a Knox Box Ordinance.
  - Chief Pritchard stated he would prefer to wait until they have the opportunity to discuss further how they would like to proceed.
  - Mr. Walter questioned when he would be ready.
  - Chief Pritchard stated by the next meeting.
- ❖ Chief Pritchard stated they are meeting with the other Fire Departments about the Fire Department Assessment Report that was completed to talk about the merging of services.
  - There was discussion by the Committee.
- ❖ Chief Pritchard stated that they will be having a meeting and at that time they will prepare the books to be presented to the Borough.
  - Chief Pritchard stated it will be given to the DAS to be distributed to Council.
- ❖ The Committee discussed what the Fire Department's long range plans are with equipment purchasing and training.

- Chief Pritchard stated that they are working towards training the volunteers in Firefighter 1 and 2.
- Chief Pritchard listed some equipment they would like to purchase in the future.
- Mr. Walter stated he would like something in writing to be given to the DAS so it can be budgeted for in the future.
- Chief Pritchard stated he can do this.
- Mayor Doscher stated that the long term plan should reflect any of the recommendations that the fire study had made.
- He questioned that if the Boroughs work towards consolidation of services how does the purchasing of equipment fit into this.
- There was further discussion by the Committee about getting a plan together that works in conjunction with other municipalities to make it easier to possibly merge in the future.
- There was discussion by the Committee about the Fire Department Assessment Report.
- There was discussion by the Committee about the need to re-establish the Fire Safety Committee.
- ❖ Mr. Walter questioned if there can be a day scheduled where residents can unload burnable items that will be burned by the Fire Department and appliances can be picked up to possibly reduce Borough recycling costs.
  - Chief Pritchard stated he can look into it.
- ❖ The DAS questioned what the status is of the selling of the Fire Rescue Truck.
  - Chief Pritchard stated that they are close to transferring the title.

#### **Police Department:**

- ❖ Chief Sentner noted to the Committee that he has a few handicap parking requests.
- ❖ Chief Sentner presented to the Committee a handicap parking request for 633 Roosevelt Avenue.
  - Chief Sentner gave his recommendation to the Committee.
  - The Committee made a motion to deny the request per the Chief's recommendation since there is the parking availability of a garage.
- ❖ Chief Sentner presented to the Committee a handicap parking request for 25 S. Bryant Avenue.
  - Chief Sentner gave his recommendation to the Committee.
  - The Committee made a motion to approve the request per the Chief's recommendation.
- ❖ Chief Sentner presented to the Committee a handicap parking request for 680 Orchard Avenue.
  - Chief Sentner gave his recommendation to the Committee.
  - The Committee made a motion to deny the request per the Chief's recommendation since there is a parking pad in the back which has enough space for three cars.
- ❖ Chief Sentner presented to the Committee a handicap parking request for 152 W. Riverview Avenue.
  - Chief Sentner gave his recommendation to the Committee.
  - The Committee made a motion to approve the request per the Chief's recommendation contingent on the property owner vacating their driveway.
  - There was discussion by the Committee about whether the Borough or the property owner will have to pay to restore the curbs if the driveway is vacated.
- ❖ There was discussion about Chief Sentner completing an inventory of the handicap parking locations to see if they are all still valid.
  - Chief Sentner stated that starting in January he will be revamping the policy manuals.
- ❖ Mr. Walter questioned what the status is for putting the computers in the Police Cars.
  - Chief Sentner stated he is waiting for information from the DA's Office.

- ❖ Chief Sentner stated that since the Borough is part of the DUI task force there will be training and scheduling of check points within the Borough.
- ❖ Mr. Walter questioned what the residents will have to do with there leaves after the loose leaf pick up is over.
  - He asked if the Borough has an ordinance in place that states leaves are not to be placed on the streets after November 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - There was discussion about who would notify the residents that they have to bag their leaves after that point.
  - The CEO stated it is DPW or the Police that would enforce this.
  - The DAS stated she will find the ordinance that reflects this.
- ❖ Mr. Walter stated with the Mutual Aid Agreement if another borough requests assistance from another borough then the Police are dispatched to help.
  - He asked if the borough goes there and helps even if they are not formally requested.
  - Chief Sentner explained to the Committee how the Borough currently assists the other municipalities.
- ❖ There was discussion about placing police consolidation on the Tri-Borough's agenda to be discussed since it would be the most appropriate place to discuss this.
  - The Committee agreed to have the Borough send a letter to the Tri-Boroughs to request this to be discussed.
  - Mr. Gillingham stated it was discussed and it would cost approximately \$4,000 to complete the study.
  - Mr. Walter stated that the state will not complete the study if the Borough's do not commit to consolidating.
  - There was discussion about having Chief Sentner talk to the Avalon Police Chief to collect information and coordinate what each municipality would need to have done in order to consolidate.
  - There was discussion about how to consolidate services.
- ❖ Mr. Walter suggested placing stickers on the meters notifying residents what times the meters will be ticketed.
  - Chief Sentner stated that there are signs already posted to reflect the hours that the meters will be ticketed.
  - Mr. Walter stated he was approached as to why there is a proposed 10% pay increase for Chief Sentner in the proposed budget.
  - The Committee stated that this should be discussed at the budget review sessions.

**Code Enforcement:**

- ❖ The CEO reviewed his report with the Committee.
- ❖ The CEO stated the demolition for 251 Grant is completed but there are some building materials that still need to be removed.
  - Mr. Walter questioned if the lien for the demolition has been placed on the property.
  - The CEO stated this will be done after the job is completed.
  - There was discussion about Sheriff Selling the property to recover some of the costs.
  - A motion was made and seconded to start the proceedings to sheriff sell 251 Grant Avenue.
- ❖ Mr. Walter questioned if the CEO is working in conjunction with the Solicitor to start the legal process for properties that are abandoned.
  - There was discussion by the Committee about the properties that were abandoned.
- ❖ The CEO explained there is a safety hazard with the porch at 650 North Avenue.
- ❖ Mr. Walter questioned what the status of Staunton Avenue is.
  - The CEO explained it was torn down to the basement floor.

- He explained he will be sending a letter informing them they have to remove the basement as well, for it to be properly demolished.
- ❖ The CEO explained to the Committee that the back side of 575 Madison Avenue is falling off.
  - There was discussion by the Committee about the whether this house is a safety concern.
- ❖ The CEO explained to the Committee the status of the downspout inspections.
- ❖ The CEO explained that the property where Papa Johns is considered abandoned.
  - He stated the owner is known but not able to be found.
  - There was discussion by the Committee about who should maintain this property.
  - There was discussion about why the property owner is not able to be found.
  - There was discussion about whether this abandoned property can be a liability issue for the Borough.

**Administration:**

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**Council Members:**

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**Old Business:**

- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**New Business:**

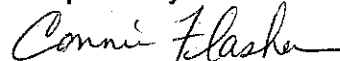
- ❖ Nothing at this time.

**Citizens:**

- ❖ There are no citizens present that wish to speak.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted



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Connie Flasher  
Secretary

**Motions to be made:**

- 1 A motion was made and seconded to start the proceedings to Sheriff Sell 251 Grant Avenue**