

Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes
January 27, 2021

The meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Committee Chairman Terry Mest. Present in addition to Mr. Mest were committee members Charles Heller, Lori Carnes, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Councilman Keith Endy; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; and Patricia Loder, Borough Manager.

Mr. Mest made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2020 meeting of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman advised the members that the Police Commission is considering the purchase of cameras for the patrol cars and has requested the Chief gather information on the subject for review by the Commission.

Chief Leatherman also noted that the first audit of the EBRPD is near completion.

The January statistics report will be provided for review at the February meeting of Borough Council.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to conduct.

New Business

Request to Close Street for Tree Removal – Chief Leatherman noted a request from Bob Andrews, of Andrews Arbor Company, for authorization to close Terrace Street between Fairview and the alley and West Third Street between Terrace and Fairview Street to allow for the removal of a large tree at 11 Fairview Street. Following discussion, the committee agreed to list this on the agenda of the February 1st meeting of Borough Council.

Mr. Deery, Chief Leatherman and Mrs. Loder reviewed with the committee discussions held with Mr. Hudon, owner of the Medicine Shoppe, concerning distribution of the Covid Vaccine. Mr. Hudon discussed with Mrs. Loder and Chief Leatherman the possibility of using the Town Center Parking Lot for a drive through vaccination site.

Chief Leatherman advised that he spoke with Mr. Hudon today and Mr. Hudon stated that he has been in contact with the Superintendent of the Boyertown School District about use of

school property as a vaccination site. The Superintendent advised Mr. Hudon that the district is interested in providing their assistance, and Mr. Hudon is pursuing this avenue as the favored approach.

The committee discussed use of the Town Center Parking Lot for distribution of the vaccine and noted concern about traffic backing up onto either South Reading Avenue or East Philadelphia Avenue. The committee also noted that if the lot were to be used for this purpose the use of the lower portion of the lot closest to the former Publishing building is best suited for this purpose. The committee felt that use of the Town Center Parking Lot for distribution of the vaccine is not ideal and noted that use of school district facilities is a better option.

Mrs. Carnes advised the committee of a request from the Boyertown Ambulance concerning the erection of “emergency vehicle entrance” signs on East Second Street. Discussion was held on the request and Chief Leatherman was asked to provide the committee with information from the PennDOT Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for their review.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. was made by Mr. Mest and seconded by Mrs. Carnes. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary