



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 13, 2012

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Durkin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. **Attendance:**

Committee Members Present: Chairman Durkin, Councilman Conners, Councilwoman Soltysiak, Councilwoman Farrell, Councilman Bunker, and Mayor Foley.

Others present: Councilman Boutcher, Chief DiValentino, Manager Hanel, Public Works Foreman Micciolo, Engineer Paul Hughes, P.E., Fire Department Chief Ken Lynch, Gary Bachman, Chief of Pioneer Fire Company, John Townsend from Second Alarmers' Emergency Medical, and Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshal George Locke.

Absent: Assistant Manager Bashore

3. **Public Comment:** None.

4. **Reports:** The Police, Ambulance, Fire Police and Fire Companies distributed written reports prior to the meeting. There were no questions on the reports.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

1. **Proposed Ordinance 2013-2; Discharging of Weapons**

Those present reviewed the draft ordinance which would make it unlawful for any person to use, fire, or discharge any gun or other firearm within the Borough. The Committee approved the ordinance as presented with one edit: under 92-4 - Exceptions; add wording to allow exceptions to the ordinance for ceremonial or educational purposes, with the approval of the Chief of Police.

ACTION: On motion by Councilwoman Farrell, seconded by Councilman Conners, the committee unanimously recommended forwarding the amended ordinance to Council to authorize advertisement.

2. **Jenkintown School District Safety Plan**

There was a brief discussion regarding placing a police officer in the schools for security. It was agreed that any initiative in this regard would need to come from the Jenkintown School District.

3. **Discussion – Residential Fire Alarm Program**

Councilman Boutcher provided a brief background on the issue requiring fire alarms in residential buildings with three (3) or more apartments that are not owner-occupied. George Locke commented that the Fire Code, adopted in its entirety by the Borough, does not require fire alarms in residential buildings under 16 units. Mr. Locke further explained that in order to amend the fire code, the amendment would require approval of the Commonwealth Dept. of License and Inspection and a 60-day public comment period.

Councilman Durkin questioned the financial impact on property owners. Councilman Boutcher commented that the ordinance amendment would grandfather existing buildings and would apply going forward only when there is a change in ownership or use.

Fire Chief Ken Lynch commented that he was not in favor of such an ordinance as it would likely increase the number of false alarm calls. Mr. Lynch also opined that the current requirement for smoke detectors and fire extinguishers was sufficient. The Committee members noted that the current requirements are not strictly enforced as the Borough does not conduct residential fire inspections.

Mr. Locke commented that Abington Township does not do residential fire inspections, but requires owners of residential properties to submit a notarized affidavit that the dwelling(s) have working smoke detectors and visible addresses.

Chairman Durkin noted that this was a preliminary discussion and many good points were made regarding the proposed ordinance. The discussion will continue with the Public Safety Committee as well as the Building, Zoning, and Revitalization Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Greenwood Avenue Bridge Update

Assistant Manager Bashore provided the committee with a memo on the status of this project. Manager Hanel announced that there would be a meeting on March 1, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at Cheltenham regarding the bridge.

The Committee members commented on the adverse impact that the bridge closing is having on several businesses, and questioned if they will be compensated by PennDOT in any way.

2. Permit Parking – Wyncote Road

On motion by Councilman Boutcher, seconded by Councilwoman Farrell, temporary permit parking was approved unanimously for 110 days for Wyncote from Summit Avenue to Mather Road. The parking will be evaluated after this temporary period before the permit parking is adopted by ordinance by Council. Administration staff will advise the residents effected.

3. Workers' Compensation Coverage for Fire Police

This discussion was continued from the previous meeting. All Fire Police are currently covered for emergencies as well as non-emergency activities such as training. However, in order to be covered for other non-emergency activities, permission must be obtained from the Borough, as the insurance carrier. Staff was directed to solicit the input of the Borough Solicitor regarding a definition of "non-emergency" or a listing of non-emergency activities. The Fire Police would need to obtain the permission of the Borough, but the approval can be obtained from a member of the Emergency Coordinating Board as established in Chapter 85 of the Jenkintown Borough Code.

4. Second Alarmers' Agreement

John Townsend indicated that the draft agreement is still under review by the Second Alarmers' but a final version should be available for the March 13 committee meeting.

5. Civil Service Commission – Update

The Manager noted that the Civil Service Commission is currently updating their rules and procedures, with the help of the Labor Counsel, to bring them into compliance with current legislation. This should be finalized by the March 4 meeting and then applications for full-time officers can be announced and testing scheduled.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hanel,
Borough Manager

Please see "Action Items" list on next page.

February 13, 2013

Action Items

Carolyn Hanel, Borough Manager	Ordinance #2013-2 - Provide proposed amendments to Borough Solicitor and place on agenda for full Council
Chris Bashore, Assistant Borough Manager	Greenwood Ave. Bridge - Attend March 1 meeting with Cheltenham and report to Council
Mike Micciolo, Public Works Director	Permit Parking on Wyncote Road - Post signs