

PENN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
100 Municipal Building Road
Duncannon, PA 17020-1100

Henry A. Holman, Jr., Chairman

Lucinda (CeCe) Novinger, Vice-Chairman

Brian Maguire, Supervisor

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 30, 2011

Page 1 of 3

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The Penn Township Board of Supervisors (PTS) met on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 in the Municipal Building. Chairman Henry Holman, Jr., Vice-Chairman CeCe Novinger, and Supervisor Brian Maguire were in attendance. Other personnel present were P. Richard Wagner (Solicitor), Helen Klinepeter (Secretary), Police Chief Paul Sheaffer, and Christine Shaffer (Treasurer). A list of visitors is on file in the Township office.

Chairman Holman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Chairman reminded all present that the meeting was being taped to assist in the preparation of minutes.

PROPOSED POLICE CONTRACT

Chairman Holman began the meeting by stating that, as previously agreed upon, this meeting would be a continuation of the opportunity for public input about the proposed police contract with Duncannon Borough. He reiterated that this was a contract for services, not a merger. The budget has been presented and the decision to adopt or reject the contract would occur at the regularly scheduled November PTS meeting. Solicitor Wagner stated that the legalities of this contract have been explored, and it is permissible by code.

VISITORS

Nancy Valdez, Penn Township Citizens Group

Ms. Valdez asked if the truck restrictions in the borough would be upheld by the police agreement. Solicitor Wagner stated as it is a Borough ordinance, issues with it need to be addressed by the Borough, but the police can act on the Borough's ordinances. Specific circumstances such as that were not being addressed in the contract, as it is not the proper place for it. Chairman Holman commented that the ordinance in question was to deter through-traffic in the Borough, but not local commerce.

Stanley Mutzabaugh

Mr. Mutzabaugh asked for some clarification about the 24/7 coverage. Chairman Holman stated that the ability for coverage for a 24 hour period is provided for, but there is flexibility to adjust the schedule as needed to allow for both slow and high demand times. He then asked if the additional coverage would be used for general police work or for traffic control. He was told that the additional time would be used as needed. A discussion then ensued about previous budgets and expenses, and the amount of citations being issued.

Lee Wright

Mr. Wright's first question was if the Chairman would be the representative on the Township's behalf for handling complaints. Solicitor Wagner replied that he felt it should be, as the Chairman was in charge, and then he could delegate it appropriately if he felt it was necessary. Mr. Wright then asked if the Borough Mayor was still in charge of the Police in the Borough, and was told by statute that he was. His third question was about the \$25,000 allotted for garage improvements in the 2011 police budget that is now under the Highway Budget. He was told that the planned improvements were to have included both Space for the Police and

the Highway department. Mr. Wright then asked about the possible loss of rent if the Police Department assumes use of the open room in the Municipal Building, and was told that the previous tenant had vacated in February of 2011, and there has been no interest in the room since that point. Also, the decision to allow the Police Department use of that room had been tabled. Next he asked what would happen to the wages of our officers if, after 3 months, it was decided that the contract wasn't working out. Solicitor Wagner replied that the officers are all employed part time with no guarantee of set wage or hours. Finally, Mr. Wright asked if the amount of felony arrests for prior years were available, and was told that they could be provided.

Jodi Rissinger

Ms. Rissinger wanted to know when the targeted start date would be for coverage in the Borough, and was told that the targeted date was January 1, 2012. There was then discussion on the change in the 2011 budget to date to reflect the newest figures, when the first payment from the Borough was expected, and the Police department's new report.

Lisa Dorman, Duncannon Record

Ms. Dorman wanted clarification on the Police wages, and was told that there is no individual contract for the part-time officers, and any changes to an officer's wages were open to discussion. She then asked about the nature of the increase in citations, and if there were more traffic than non-traffic. She was told that there was an increase in the amount of traffic citations, but it has been in response to a traffic issue in a certain area, not an effort to raise revenue through fines. Also, it was left to an officer's discretion on whether to issue a citation or warning. Finally she asked about the garage improvements, and was told that this improvement was in the 2011 budget, but due to time constraints, wasn't pursued.

Jodi Rissinger

Ms. Rissinger asked about the statement that this proposed contract could be a tax savings, and was told that statement was made by the Borough, but it was felt by both sides that it made sense economically. A discussion then took place regarding percentage of coverage area versus contributed funds, and if this situation was comparable to the agreement between the Borough and PTMA.

Nancy Valdez

Ms. Valdez asked the Chief if there would be any guarantee of coverage during the peak trouble periods, and was told that those times are being provided for in the schedule.

Jodi Rissinger

Ms. Rissinger asked if note 6 on the 2012 proposed budget was identified, and was told that this was under vehicle and police liability.

Lee Wright

Mr. Wright stated that he believed a percentage plan was the best way to go to ensure fairness.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a Holman/Novinger motion, the PTS voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Christine Shaffer
Recording Secretary