

**POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 31, 2010**

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

Also present were Council Member Barry Christman; Mayor Marianne Deery; Patricia Spaide, Borough Manager, Police Chief Barry Leatherman, and a concerned citizen.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2010 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Mest, seconded by Mrs. Carnes, and approved.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Leatherman reviewed with the members a report on the activities of the department during the month of March.

The Chief noted a request for a handicap parking space in front of 16 South Jefferson Street. The Chief advised the committee that the applicant does meet the requirements. This matter will be placed on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Council.

The Chief reviewed with the committee the need to inform the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation concerning the closure of state roads for three events, Chilling on Main, Sidewalk Expo, and Cruise Night. It was noted that Berks Mont Business Association is requesting an extension of the hours for the Sidewalk Expo to 8:00 p.m. This will require that Philadelphia Avenue be closed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Following discussion, the committee agreed that the extension of the hours is acceptable. Chilling on Main is scheduled for April 17th, Sidewalk Expo is scheduled on June 15th, with a rain date of June 17th; and Cruise Night is scheduled on June 19th with a July 17th rain date. These events will be listed on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Council for authorization for the Chief to notify PennDot of the road closure.

The Chief noted that the Civil Service Commission will meet on April 1st and will certify the list for promotion to Corporal. Council will be asked to make a conditional offer of promotion to the officer who has the highest score. This will be placed on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Council.

Unfinished Business

Emergency Services Task Force – Mrs. Spaide distributed to the committee members a copy of the Fire and Emergency Service Study Greater Boyertown Area. The committee will review the report and a meeting with the consultant will be scheduled sometime in May or June. The meeting will include representatives from the Borough of Boyertown, Colebrookdale Township, Douglass Township, Friendship Hook and Ladder Company, Keystone Steam Fire Engine Company, and the Liberty Fire Company.

Octoberfest 2010 – Solicitor Hartman revised the amendment to Chapter 136, Section 136-14 (A) to remove the requirement that alcohol only be consumed within an enclosed tent area. The amendment permits the consumption of alcohol within a fenced, roped, tented or otherwise designated area. A motion to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise the ordinance for adoption at the May 3rd meeting of Council will be listed on the agenda of the April 5th meeting of Council.

Regional Police Study Committee – Mr. Deery advised the members, that a meeting of the Regional Police Study Committee was convened in March. Mr. Deery stated that the committee is not recommending the formation of a regional police department at this time. Mr. Deery further noted that the borough's cost share of a regional police department would significantly increase the borough's police budget. Colebrookdale and Boyertown officials on the committee agreed to table the recommendation for the formation of a regional department at this time; however, both municipalities agree that the subject may be reconsidered in the future.

New Business

County of Berks Regional Police Services Survey – The committee reviewed and completed a Regional Police Services Survey from the County of Berks. The committee agreed to advise the County Commissioners of their interest in continuing to formally discuss regional police concepts. Mrs. Spaide will forward the completed survey to the Berks County Board of Commissioners.

Other Comments

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. was made by Mrs. Carnes and seconded by Mr. Maloney. The next meeting of the Police & Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28th, 2010 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Spaide
Borough Secretary