

**Public Safety Commission
Meeting
20 February 2014**

The Public Safety Commission's (PSC) monthly meeting was held on Thursday, 20 February 2014 at 7:00 PM in the first floor conference room (former town library) of Town Hall. Present: Commission Chairperson Cindy Collier, Commission Members Bryan Hill, Marty Love and Scott Stavrou. Also present PSC Council Liaison Sean Haardt of the Mayor and Council (M&C) and Police Chief Stanford of the Boonsboro Police Department (BPD). Guest Steve Mohl of the 1st Hose Company of Boonsboro {Boonsboro Fire Department (BFD)} was present. Absent Terri Hollingshead.

WELCOME:

Collier welcomed those in attendance and distributed February's meeting agenda and PSC's January 2014 Minutes along with an additionally packet of information. This packet was Walkability Checklist produced by a partnership of the U.S Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and SafeRoutes.

MINUTES:

Collier allowed for a few minutes review of the January Minutes. Following this review Motion by Hill, seconded by Stavrou to officially approve the 16 January 2014 PSC Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussions were held on the M&C tasked job of identifying deteriorating sidewalks. Additionally, the M&C hoped that the PSC would also try to conduct a walkability study for the town as it looked like the college intern who was to do never started the task. Chief Stanford expressed concern about the lack of sidewalks on Center Street which is very problematic due to the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic especial before and after school. Additionally, mention was made of a possible new retirement complex being built near the terminus of Orchard Street. Chief Stanford expressed his concern for the lack of sidewalks in this area. The PSC discussed obtaining proper maps and breaking the town into sections and tackling as two person teams. Motion by Hill second by Stavrou to begin the evaluation/study. Motion carried.

In light of potential new residential building to possible begin in the near future Hill raised concerns about the towns infrastructure to handle an increase in population and its impact on ISO 9000 ratings for first responders which helped keep home insurance rate down. Hill mentioned the 2009 Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (APFO) and if it was being reevaluated and updated. Haardt would query Megan Clark on these issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

Guest

Collier opened the floor to Firefighter/ Fire Prevention Coordinator Steve Mohl of the BFD. Mohl gave a brief overview of the outreach programs the BFD sponsors. These include fire prevention/response for children of the local schools, Boy Scouts etc. He estimated that in 2013 the BFD spoke to about 425 individual as part of their outreach programs. A pertinent example detailing the positive effect of this outreach was given during a call to a fire at a residence on Clevelandtown Road. A young boy who had attended a talk by BFD used the information he gained to properly assemble his family out of the way of responding firefighters and well away from fire. Mohl and the BFD hoped that by working with the PSC they would be able to expand to a wider range of age groups to provide education on fire prevention. The philosophy best summed with "more prevention and less suppression".

Mohl and Hill initial suggestion was to utilize the town newsletter to disseminate general information concerning fire prevention/education and upcoming events dealing with the same. Discussions were held about adding to the newsletter information concerning the need for residents to convert old residential smoke detector to the newer 10 year sealed batter types. Mohl volunteered to compose a write up concerning this for the next town newsletter.

A continuation from a previous proposal by Hill was the PSCs arranging with the town for observation of the first ever National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day (NWCPD) sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This is to be a national event held Saturday 3 May 2014 to help identify and mitigate fire hazards that can cause wildfires which often progress to house fires. It was believed that this would be an additional opportunity to expand fire prevention/education to the community. Consensus was to see if the town with the approval of the M&C could have town employees present at the debris site for the pickup of brush clean up and yard debris. Additionally the PSC would be present to hand out packets of information along with member of the BFD who would also bring the Brush Truck. Possible literature to be handed out would be safety tips for the spring/summer outdoor grilling season (also to be included in town newsletter), mulch hazards and hazardous chemical clean up. Initially it was thought to offer the services of members of the BFD to visit willing homeowners and identify potential outside fire hazards. However, after discussion consensus was to assemble a checklist for homeowner to self-inspect their property due to potential liability issues and hesitancy of residents. The PSC explored possible ways to get the word out if the event was approved. Consensus was to use all communication methods possible (Town's newsletter, webpage etc.). Motion by Stavrou second by Hill to approach M&C to see if they were interested in allowing this event to occur plus the use of facilities and time request for town employees possibly from 8AM to 3PM. Motion carried. Collier thanked Mohl for his time and input.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT:

Liaison Haardt reported that the M&C did not need to approve the formal nomination of Collier to Chairperson that being an internal matter within the PSC. Haardt reported on possible lighting upgrades to Town Hall made possible through a smart energy grant by the state.

Haardt also reported on feasibility study being done for the possible building of a Cobblestone Hotel in Boonsboro.

Haardt addressed previous questions raised by the PSC during January's meeting about the Code Red Notification system utilized by the town. Kim Miller currently activates the Code Red Messaging system. The PSC's concern about the type of information being sent out by the Code Red system was addressed by the Mayor Kauffman. The Mayor believed that the infrequency of use did not warrant any changes to the current operating procedures. On this point there was general strong consensus by the PSC about the need for the Chief Stanford to have input and possible final control/use of the system. This was a point of discussion that would be carried on at later dates.

The Mayor inquired about the use of the BFD Fire Siren and how could it be utilized in an emergency other than fire. Discussions were held by the PSC about looking into ways to possibly update the siren system through the county.

The issue of switching from large bottles of condiments to packets for the PSC's National Night Out (NNO) was also mentioned by the M&C. The use of bottles at 2013's NNO created a mess according to some members of the M&C. This would be investigated by the PSC at a later date.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Stanford addressed the stabbing that resulted in a fatality near a home on Saint Paul Street which elicited an email from a concerned citizen near the area. Chief Stanford briefly stated that the BPD would look into the citizens concern and see if they could address.

FIRE & RESCUE REPORT:

Hill reported that the BFD was still looking into the repositioning of the Stop Line on Saint Paul Street. Another ongoing issue for the BFD on exiting/entering Saint Paul St. to Main Street was the trucks delivering to Dan's Tap House. Discussion were held on approaching management of Dan's Tap House to inquire about

frequency and delivery times for the restaurant. A possible solution discussed was temporary daytime use of parking spaces in front of Dan's and conversation to parking in evening.

Additionally, there are concerns about the road that connects Lakin to St. Paul St. (an alley continuation of Center Street). Currently it is utilized as a two way road but it may be better for BFD to revert to a configuration that existed some years (6-10) ago. This was unidirectional from Saint Paul Street to town hall but two way from Lakin to town hall. Initial concern was for the impact on traffic especial after school traffic. This was an issue that needed further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Stavrou, second by Hill to adjourn at 9:15 PM. Next PSC meeting to be held 20 March 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Cindy Collier,
Public Safety Commission Chairperson