

# **Lower Macungie Township Public Safety Commission**

## **Agenda**

**June 15, 2010**

**Attending: John Tunney, Rick Murphy, Julie Timmcke, George Caldarelli, Richard Kipp, Scott Forbes**

### **1. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting(s)**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2010 meeting made by Rick Murphy, second Richard Kipp. Approved**

### **2. Public Comment**

**None**

### **3. Requests to the PSC**

**PSC received a letter regarding a home breakin on Sauerkraut Lane. No action requested**

### **4. Report on Development Plans**

**No report**

### **5. PSC Projects**

#### **a. Police Protection Contingency Study**

**Richard is doing a thorough review of the research/survey methodology and conducting some interviews with local stakeholders to gather information. Previous report from 1997 is also being reviewed and analyzed. Current research suggests that the non-decisive answers should be removed as they result in ambiguous conclusions. We want to make sure we focus on what residents are willing to pay in terms of dollars or tax mils.**

**The actual survey may cost us but it is possible that it could be done objectively in house. A pilot survey will help us identify any problems. An internet survey is easy but may not reach those who don't have access. Marketing and education are key to getting responses. Survey data can be safeguarded and assure only one response per person. Richard volunteered to provide the survey softward free of charge to the township. Perhaps something could be put in the tax bills announcing the survey,**

**although this is too late for the school tax bills. A response rate of 33% would be considered excellent. John will find out how many residents are receiving the township newsletter via email. Other community groups could be asked to help out. Township newsletter deadline is 8/1 for the next issue but is 8/31 for the December issue since the newsletter is being outsourced. We are unsure if we will know the timeline of the survey process by 8/31. if we do, we can publish that in the December newsletter.**

**The entire survey process could require 5-7 months because creating the best survey takes time. Richard will also investigate other surveys we could use as a model. He recommends we take a very methodical approach to creating and conducting this survey. The whole process needs to be neutral and unbiased and communicated to the Board of Commissioners so that we are not duplicating efforts. Richard will draft a plan.**

**Scott review the cost estimates he has for the options of joining an existing regional force vs the cost of the current bills under consideration for charging for state police. Additional discussions have been held informally with other municipalities regarding partnering with another municipality's existing force. This will likely require a long-term contract but could be cost effective. The commission will review a contract between the borough of Kenhort and the city of Reading to get an idea of what conditions are typically involved in negotiating such a partnership, such as overtime, emergency response, etc.**

**b. Resident Education**

**i. Shelter in Place Education**

**Presentations have been held at EMO meetings with ministers, HOA and crime watch groups in order to generate interest for "shelter in place" education. Attendees were provided with links, such as ready.gov and future presentations are being schedule at the library and with LMYA. The goal is to help people understand the dangers and train them to know the signals of an emergency situation and what to do. George**

**attended a presentation on major disasters and stressed how important it is for people to be educated on what to do.**

**ii. Hunting on township owned properties**

**Board of Commissioners have accepted the PSC recommendation regarding hunting on township owned properties and intend to approve at a July meeting. Education to township residents is key and an article will be put in the newsletter. A picture of the map would be helpful and could also be put on the website.**

**c. Neighborhood Crime Watch Outreach**

**George is working on ways for us to help residents start up their own neighborhood crime watches which is a very effective way to approach safety.**

**d. Traffic Control Signage request form**

**Richard continues to work on this and hopes to complete it by the next meeting.**

**e. LMYA Field Safety Grant request**

**Partnering with Brookside country club could be helpful, especially for the township pool, but may not be enough for the LMYA because they are so spread out with so many fields. John will continue to gather information about this request.**

**6. Reports**

**a. Board of Commissioners**

**b. Macungie Ambulance Corp**

**A trial run of staging an ambulance at the Wescosville Fire House is under way.**

**c. Fire Department**

**d. Emergency Management Organization**

**e. State Police**

**f. Other**

**The township has formed a safety committee to review safety issues and this will provide a reduction in insurance costs. The township conducted a fire drill and it went very well. Safety efforts will continue. A warning about makeshift bombs will be posted on the website.**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Motion to adjourns made by**

**George Caldarelli, second Rick. Meeting adjourned**