

**Village of Mechanicsburg
Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Mechanicsburg Municipal Building**

Committee Members Present:

Councilman Mike Hull
Councilman Scott Wilson

Also Present:

Councilman Charles Hickey
Chief David Patrick
Fire Chief Matt Bebout

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:28 p.m.

Police Department Report

Chief David Patrick reported that the Police Department has received four applications. Background investigations are underway. Two applicants may need OPOTA refresher training before returning to service. Chief Patrick advised that the 80-hour refresher course cost is \$1,050 and discussed the possibility of requiring applicants to complete the refresher at their own expense, with potential reimbursement after one year of service as an incentive for retention.

Chief Patrick also discussed Eric Wonn, whose OPOTA certification has been lapsed for more than four years and who would be required to complete refresher training. Chief Patrick stated that he is monitoring OPOTA offerings and hopes more flexible class options may become available for applicants who work full-time elsewhere.

Chief Patrick presented the February Police Department report, noting that activity was lighter due to other workload demands, including an active child abuse investigation. He advised that he was still able to conduct traffic enforcement and issued five citations over the prior weekend.

Police Cruiser / Vehicle Transfer Discussion

Chief Patrick and Fire Chief Matt Bebout discussed the possibility of transferring the Police Department's current cruiser to the Fire Department once the new police cruiser is delivered. Chief Patrick advised that the new cruiser has a Ford build start date of March 19, 2026, with anticipated delivery in April 2026 and outfitting and likely placing it in service in May 2026.

Discussion was held regarding the value of keeping the existing cruiser within the Village for public safety use rather than selling it. Fire Chief Bebout stated the vehicle would be suitable for Fire Department use and estimated total conversion and outfitting costs, including lighting, radio equipment, graphics, and related work, at no more than \$20,000 on the high side, with radio costs making up a substantial portion of that amount.

It was noted that the vehicle transfer and related expenditures would require Council authorization, particularly because projected costs will exceed the normal administrative spending threshold. Fire Chief Bebout stated he would begin obtaining quotes for the necessary work. Committee members agreed the matter should be prepared for Council discussion and action.

Chief Patrick also displayed the new police license plates that have been prepared for department vehicles.

Complaint Review

Chief Patrick reported a complaint involving Officer Smith. The complaint alleged that Officer Smith pulled out in front of a motorist while responding to a medic run near North Main Street / East Race Street. Chief Patrick reviewed the front of building camera footage and stated the video did **not** show Officer Smith pulling out in front of the complainant. Chief Patrick advised that while no policy violation was observed, he still used the matter as a reminder regarding cautious emergency response driving.

Fire / EMS Report

Fire Chief Matt Bebout reported that through the end of February, the department had handled 134 **total runs**, with only **four** requiring mutual aid coverage because the medic unit was already committed.

Chief Bebout reported there had already been three fires that day, all related to outside burning. Two of those incidents involved fires spreading into dry vegetation or toward fields. He noted that current conditions make open burning hazardous despite recent rain.

Chief Bebout further reported:

- 103 EMS runs so far this year
- 53 village EMS runs, with only two missed due to second calls in progress
- The EMS schedule has been 100% covered last month and this month
- Only **one open shift** remains this month, and it is expected to be covered by overtime if needed

Chief Bebout advised that the department's third full-time employee is beginning his first shift on Wednesday. He also stated that finances are improving and that no transfer from the general fund to the fire side is currently anticipated.

Fire Department Facility / Apron Safety Concern

Chief Bebout raised concerns about the deteriorating rear apron / concrete area near the fire station. He stated the area has worsened, with rebar exposed, creating a significant safety hazard for personnel and vehicles. Scott Wilson agreed the condition is serious. Additional discussion noted that the adjacent steps and handrail are also in poor condition and may need to be addressed as part of a larger repair project.

Committee members agreed this matter should be forwarded for Council discussion, with a recommendation that quotes be obtained as soon as possible. Mike Hull advised that he would get with Roger Brake about getting quotes. It was noted that the issue may also involve the Building Committee and that repairs would likely exceed the spending threshold requiring Council approval.

Fire Department Long-Term Planning

Chief Bebout discussed ongoing planning related to future medic and engine replacement. He stated that department committees have been formed to review options and obtain quotes, with the medic committee already nearing completion of its work. He also discussed possible financing options, including loans, for future apparatus purchases, noting current lead times of approximately three years for major fire apparatus.

Discussion was also held regarding the department's ISO rating, the need to retain adequate apparatus for insurance-rating purposes, and the importance of replacing aging equipment in an orderly manner.

Chief Bebout also reported that lieutenant interviews were scheduled for the following day, with two current full-time employees applying for the promotion.

Old / Other Business

Chief Bebout updated the committee regarding concerns over legislation affecting township fire funds and advised that Goshen Township is creating separate accounts for equipment and capital planning to avoid concerns with excess balances. He also noted that Goshen Township is expected to purchase three sets of fire gear for the department this year.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hall and seconded by Scott Wilson.
Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:08 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chief David Patrick

Scott Wilson

Charles Im

Paul Meyer

D Michael Hill

Charles Im

RB