

**MINUTES**  
**SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Richland Township and Richland Volunteer Fire Department**  
**April 9, 2025**

*Richland Township representatives and the Volunteer Fire Department representatives met at the Richland Township Administrative Offices on April 9, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., for their monthly Safety Committee meeting.*

**PRESENT**

*Bryan J. Beppler, Executive Director  
Kimberly D. Stayrook, Administrative Assistant  
Wesley Meyers, Richland Fire Department  
William Lehmann, Richland Fire Department – via telephone  
Scott Conahan, Police Department Representative*

**ABSENT**

*Todd Shaffer, Road Department Representative  
Kevin Gaudlip, Police Department Representative  
Brandon Rozich, Road Department Representative*

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES – Marh 12, 2025**

*- Mr. Meyers moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2025 as distributed, seconded by Mr. Lehmann. All in favor. Motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Mr. Beppler stated that the first quarter of 2025 site safety inspection report was received from the Public Works Department, and he stated their inspection was completed the week of March 14, 2025. One concern was noted, the overhead lights in the back are dim and need replaced. Mr. Felton, Road Foreman is in the process of getting a price quote from Tercek Electric for this project.*

*On January 23, 2025, the PA Department of Labor and Industry State Workers' Insurance Fund (SWIF) conducted a loss prevention survey at the following Richland Township Fire Department locations: Scalp Avenue fire station / banquet hall and Solomon Run fire station / banquet hall / clubhouse. There was a list of safety recommendations identified. The Fire Department will provide a status report when completed with the applicable recommendations that need addressed.*

*Mr. Beppler asked for a follow-up from the Fire Department on their review by the inspection from the State Workers Insurance Fund of January 23, 2025. He inquired about the recommendations that were received. Mr. Meyers reviewed the list and stated the issues were addressed; Corrective Action was taken on all items.*

**NEW INCIDENTS OR NEAR MISS REPORTS**

*Mr. Beppler reported on April 3, 2025 there was an incident with a Police Officer. At approximately 10:53 am at Vo Tech School, 445 Schoolhouse Road, an Officer responded to a call regarding concern that a suspect may harm himself. The Officer was apprehending the suspect when the suspect bit the Officer on the arm as he was being taken into custody. The Officer was wearing long sleeves; however, the bite was felt through his clothing. The Officer was seen at Corporate Care as a precaution.*

*Mr. Beppler stated that the root cause of this incident was that an unstable individual was not being compliant. Corrective actions include waiting for back up from another officer (strength in force), utilizing greater distances and attempting negotiation prior to approaching a threatening party. In addition, the officer may utilize non-lethal methods (i.e. stun gun) to de-escalate a situation prior to becoming combative.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*Mr. Beppler provided a letter from REA Energy that he received. It was a safety reminder to emphasize the serious risks associated with downed power lines and trees on electric lines. A list of do's and don't's were provided. This letter was provided to the Public Works Department, Police Department, and Fire Department.*

### **Safety concerns or Suggestions**

*There are no new safety concerns or suggestions.*

*The next meeting is May 14, 2025 at the municipal building.*

*There being no further business, Mr. Lehmann moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sgt. Conahan. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly D. Staybrook  
Administrative Assistant  
Richland Township*