

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING-OCTOBER 15, 2024 at 6:00PM

Meeting was called to order by Council President Ron Kobusky and a moment of silence was observed after reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance".

The roll was called:

Present were Mr. Earl Cunningham, Ms. Alexis Eroh, Mr. Thomas Hogan, Mr. Adam Morehart, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Ron Kobusky
Absent and excused was Mr. William Dixon

At this time Council President, Ron Kobusky turned the meeting proceeding over to Mayor Frank Coughlin. The mayor announced that starting Friday, PennDot will begin paving on Shawnee Ave. A temporary "NoParking" ban will be in effect during this paving. He proceeded to explained that the reason for the meeting this evening is to conduct a hearing for "The Plymouth Borough Police Department Growth and Crime Prevention Act. The hearing is for a grant the borough is going to apply for through the Federal Government, and then read the list of items the police are applying for in the (JAG) grant (list hereto attached). The mayor thanked Captain Mike Thomas, Councilwoman Alexis Eroh, Councilman Tom Hogan and everyone else that helped for all of the time and effort that went into putting this grant together.

The mayor will take comments and questions regarding the agenda and United States Department of Justice Grant Program- Edward Byrne.

Mr. Joseph Leteer was an authorized speaker on behalf of Plymouth Alive. He thanked the council, mayor and the police department for the phenomenal police presence and all the hard work they do. A few years before he was hit by a car and saw the police force go right into action pursuing the driver and were able to apprehend said driver. The town is changing and so are the people. He feels safer with the police presence. They do a great job.

Mr. Brian Vnuk was an authorized speaker for Plymouth Rotary which was chartered in 1954. He said with the police we can decrease crime and increase the value of the town. He and the Rotary fully support the police and the submission of this grant.

Ms. Laura Kellar, Plymouth Borough Librarian, spoke as an authorized speaker for the Plymouth Public Library. She and the library is in favor of the submission of this grant. The police are always very helpful regarding the needs at the library. She appreciates the way the council and the mayor have worked hard to grow this police force. She feels that the items applied for in the grant will help to increase response time for all calls. She said the body cameras that are being applied for are an excellent idea and long overdue.

Mr. John Frey who is a resident in town said he is 78 years old and has been in town most of his life. He feels the police do a very good job. He fully supports the submission of this grant and feels the body cameras are a very good idea. In this day and age, there are always many people taking picture at the scene of an incident and the body cameras can protect the citizens as well as the officers. Any time you can make a move to protect them is a good move.

Ms. Judy Rittenhouse spoke as authorized speaker for the General Federation Women's Club which has been in Plymouth for 90 years. The members of the club are grateful for the police. We have a top-rated police force and they deserve top-rated equipment.

Teresa Bradley has been a resident of town for 50 years. She walks frequently and enjoys seeing an increase in police presence, patrolling the streets to keep them safe. She feels that the grant should be applied for to increase protection for all.

In closing, the mayor thanked all who came out in support of the police department and the submittal of this grant. He stated that we have a top-notch police department and to maintain that you need top-notch equipment. This concluded the members of town offering support of the grant submittal ending this portion of the meeting, so the mayor turned the meeting back to Council President Ron Kobusky.

Requests and comments regarding general items:

Mr. John Thomas reminded all that the Women's Club would hold a bake sale at the borough building on election day, November 5th. Please come out to support. He added that the Plymouth Rotary will hold a spaghetti dinner on November 3 from 12pm to 4pm at the American Legion on Center Ave. This is an eat in or take out event. Please support.

AGENDA VOTING:

Motion made to approve Resolution 3 of 2024:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF PLYMOUTH BOROUGH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM AND SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO.

*On the question: Councilman Morehart asked the mayor what the fleet count would be if we were to secure the grant items?

The mayor explained that some of the older vehicles would be sold therefore keeping the fleet the same size.

Council President further explained that the plan is to space out the purchase of new vehicles so as not to need all new vehicles at one time.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham
2nd: Mr. Thomas
Voting: unanimous- 6 yes

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cunningham

Respectfully submitted:



Gail Burdulis, Plymouth Borough Secretary

Approved November 12, 2024

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT GROWTH AND CRIME PREVENTION

Estimated

Vehicle(s)

Six (6) 2025 Tahoe's with equipment and upfitting \$ 85,957 apiece. Total: \$515,742

Three (3) License Plate Reader (LPR), install \$7,500.00

Total Vehicle Project Price: \$523,242.00

Body Camera(s)

Twelve (12) Axon Body Camera(s) and the 5 years corresponding package.

Total Body Camera Project \$74,804.00

Patrol Rifles

Six (6) SIG MPX 9mm Rifles \$ 10,265.00

Twelve (12) SIG MPX 35 RD Magazine(s) \$456.00

Total Rifle Project \$ 10,721.00

Total Estimated Projected Grant

\$608,767.00

RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2024

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH
OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE
BOROUGH TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
PROGRAM AND SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice offers a grant program known as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG);

WHEREAS, the aforesaid program is designed to assist Municipal Police Departments in growing for the purpose of crime prevention;

WHEREAS, Plymouth Borough would like to grow its vehicles in order to place more patrols in the Borough to protect its residents;

WHEREAS, Plymouth Borough would like to obtain Body Cameras and three license plate readers to further enhance their ability to prevent crime within the Borough;

WHEREAS, Plymouth Borough would like to obtain six SIG MPG 9mm rifles and twelve SIG MPX RD Magazines in order to assist there police department in combating crime;

WHEREAS, the Borough has insufficient funds available to make these enhancements to the police force in order to provide increased crime prevention to its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Borough Council of Plymouth, that Borough hereby approves the submission to the United States Department of Justice to obtain a Grant from Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) for Six 2025 Tahoe Police vehicles with equipment and upfitting at a price of \$85,957 each, Total \$515,742.00, plus three license plate readers installed at a price of \$7,500.00, total vehicle project price \$523,242.00; Twelve body cameras and the five year corresponding package at a total cost of \$74,804.00; six SIG MPX 9mm Rifles cost \$10,265.00 and twelve SID MPX 35 RD magazines cost \$465.00, total rifle project \$10,721.00. **Total Grant request \$608,767.00.** The Borough Council further ratifies the registration with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and further authorizes Borough Secretary, Gail Burdulis to register or re-new any previous registrations, if necessary, on behalf of Plymouth Borough. Furthermore, Councilwoman Alexis Eroh or Ron Kobusky, Council President are authorized to execute any and all documents regarding the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) and the Borough Secretary is authorized to attest to any and all documents that require an attestation thereto.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted at a special meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Plymouth, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, held on this 15th day, of October 2024.

BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH: