

# **Bethlehem Authority Police Report**

## **Dec 2023**

Eric Yeakel



**Snow in Long Pond, December 11**

1. Deer and bear firearms seasons ended Saturday, 12/9. Only two bears are known to have been harvested from Authority land. None of the hunters spoken with by Authority Officers reported seeing a bear. Several deer were harvested from both the Wild Creek/ Penn Forest areas as well as Long Pond. Hunter numbers are still lower than years ago with hunters reporting not seeing many deer.
2. At the Authority's request, City Maintenance Staff installed 3 new security gates in November along Hell Hollow Rd. The Authority requested two other gate installations which are scheduled for installation this month.
3. Loose trash and a TV were discarded at the Wild Creek area Call Mountain Gate, sometime overnight after the first day of deer firearms season. Authority personnel removed the loose trash while a City employee was called to remove the TV. Nothing in the trash was found to identify the dumper.

Authority Officers also moved several downed trees and very large branches from Wild Creek and Penn Forest fire lanes this past month.

4. An old utility pole was discarded in the Long Pond area. The pole had all markings removed that would be able to identify where it was originally placed. The pole had been cut into 4 and 5 foot lengths prior to being discovered.
5. November had more issues with people on the property. The Authority cited two males, who were found fishing in the Penn Forest area, for trespassing. The trespassers did not have fishing licenses and were then also cited by PA Fish and Boat for the violation.

Another male was found to have cut down 5 small trees to clear shooting lanes from his tree stand. The man also damaged a few other trees as he nailed boards into them to create a blind around the stand. This individual is being cited by the PA Game Commission for damage to trees.

An Authority Officer located a man hunting on the property not wearing enough bright orange covering. The man was only wearing an orange hat while required to wear a hat and an additional 250 square inches of orange. The man then went and retrieved his orange vest. This violation was then forwarded to the PA Game Commission who will be sending paperwork to this individual.

On Monday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, a hunter reported a small buck with spike antlers dead with its head stuck in the fence in the Wild Creek area. This was reported to City Maintenance at the end of the day. This Officer located the animal and removed it from the fence. The animal likely broke its neck and died quickly due to very little sign of injury around its face or other parts of the body.