

**Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting**

**Public Health & Safety Committee Members:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Charles M. Whiting, Commissioner R. Samuel Valenza, Commissioner Nicolas O. Scull, S. Michael Murphy, Chief of Police, John Fugelo, Captain/Emergency Services/Fire Marshall, Lee Perlmutter, Chief of Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company, Kenneth Davidson, Assistant Chief of Operations, Second Alarmer's Association & Rescue Squad

- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting called the Committees Meetings to order at 8:05 p.m.
  
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting, Commissioners Scull and Valenza, Chief Murphy, Chief Perlmutter, and Colton Marsh, Deputy Chief of Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad attending in the absence of Assistant Chief Davidson. Also present: David A. Dodies, Township Manager, and Jennifer Prior, Township Solicitor.
  
- III. **Approval of Minutes - March 18, 2019:** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
  
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports - March 2019:**
  - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Report: Chief Murphy reviewed recent activities and statistics:
    - Probationary Officers Czerviski and Hens transitioned to their Second Field Training Officer.
    - Officers attended the following trainings: De-escalation Training at Bucks County Training Center, pro-active patrol tactics, vehicle search and seizure and tactical communications by ILEE, EVOC instructor update training and FBI negotiators training. Administrative Sergeant of the traffic unit supervisor attended Fundamentals of Collision investigations and National Incident-Based Reporting System crime reporting training. Sergeant Robb attended FBI-LEEDA Supervisory Leadership Institute.
    - Residents are advised to be vigilant when checking bank and credit card statements for unusual activity, and to be mindful of all unsolicited phone calls for scams. The Internal Revenue Service does not contact anyone by phone. Do not provide callers with date of birth, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, or social security numbers. If a credit card company calls to report suspicious activity on your account, call back the number on the reverse side of your credit card to verify your information.
    - CrimeReports.com internet portal is no longer recommended by the Department due to ongoing technical issues. Chief Murphy will attend a presentation on Crime Watch to learn about their services.
    - A permanent prescription drug drop box is located in the Police lobby and is accessible 24 hours a day.
    - The next Drug Enforcement Administration "Drug Take Back Day" will be held on April 27, 2019.
  - B. Department of Emergency Services: Captain Fugelo reviewed statistics from March 2019.
  - C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad - Mr. Marsh, Deputy Chief of Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad reviewed statistics and provided updates on the following:

**Upper Moreland Township  
Committees Meetings  
April 15, 2019 - Meeting Minutes**

**Upper Moreland Township  
Committees Meetings  
April 15, 2019 - Meeting Minutes**

- Emergency Management Services week is May 20, 2019 and the Second Alarmers will host an open house event at the Willow Grove main station located on Davisville Road on May 21, 2019.
  - SAR's is working with Montgomery County to access Buck's radio channels and make them operable on SAR's radios.
  - Work continues on Priority One Dispatches to categorize and prioritize calls, which currently captures a large base of patients but is not specific to a patient's needs.
- D. Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company: Chief Perlmutter announced the monthly safety tip on creating a fire escape plan for your home.
- Draw a map of your home and discuss the plan with your family of where to go and what to do. There are only a few minutes to get out safely.
  - Check that doors and windows can be opened easily leading to the outside.
  - Know at least two ways out of every room.
  - Designate an outside meeting place located at a safe distance from the house.
  - Practice a fire drill at night and during the day.
  - Practice different ways out.
  - Teach children how to escape on their own, in case you cannot help them.
  - Close the doors behind you when you leave.
  - When the alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Never go back in for people or for pets.
  - If there is smoke, stay low and go.
  - Call the Fire Department.
- Staff members are available to answer questions by calling 215-659-7633.
  - Smoke detectors are available to those in need.
  - The Fire Company will have a booth set up at the Upper Moreland High School's Education Food Truck event on April 26, 2019.
  - Volunteers are needed and interested individuals can call for more information at 215-659-7633.

**V. Old Business:**

- A. Acquisition of Body Worn Cameras: Chief Murphy provided the following updates:
- Upper Moreland Police Department was accepted by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) as a potential grant recipient with a 50% match for local municipalities and, in late January 2019, the UMPD submitted a grant application. In early April 2019, the UMPD was notified of an award and this presentation is part of a series of requirements from the Department of Justice (DOJ) to receive the funds. Once the DOJ provides a final review and approval, the UMPD will receive notification to move forward with a purchase of Watch Guard body worn cameras. There will be training with a soft roll out in mid to late-Summer and a full roll out in the Fall.
    - Commissioner Valenza inquired on policy and Chief Murphy stated that copies have been provided for review to the District Attorney's office, liability attorneys, police supervisors, President of the PDA, and other venues. A DOJ consultant is working with the UMPD to meet specifications determined by the DOJ. In early June, the policy will be submitted to the DOJ through the PCCD and a decision will be provided within a short period of time.
    - Commissioner Whiting asked Ms. Prior how body cameras are received in other municipalities. Ms. Prior stated that they have been well received.
    - Commissioner Valenza inquired on an updated organizational chart. Chief Murphy

**Upper Moreland Township  
Committees Meetings  
April 15, 2019 - Meeting Minutes**

will email a copy.

- Commissioner Valenza commented about the traffic backup on Terwood Road around 4:45 p.m. Chief Murphy stated that there are no shortcuts to bypass the bridge and the closure of Byberry Road has caused exponentially higher traffic with other delays around the Township. An Officer is usually patrolling that area and will be there on Tuesday.

**VI. New Business:**

**A. Fire Training Building:**

- Captain Fugelo stated that the Sewer Authority has provided permission and included the Township in a Lease Agreement to install three shipping containers on the Authority's property. A structural engineer is working to secure the containers should the area become flooded. An application will be presented at a future Zoning Hearing Board Meeting and if approved, the proposed project will be presented at a future Community Development Committee meeting. The project is being funded by grants.

**VII. Other Items - Nothing to report.**

**VIII. Visitor Comments:**

- Sue Worth-LaManna, a resident, commented about deer crossing the roadways at Huntingdon Road, Edge Hill Road and Terwood Road, and she inquired if deer crossing signs can be installed. Chief Murphy stated that Public Works can purchase and install signs on municipal roads and he will contact PennDOT to approve and install signs on their State roads. Chief Murphy directed Ms. LaManna to send him an email with the exact locations for consideration.

**IX. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner McFatridge inquired on the status of Police Department accreditation. Chief Murphy stated that once bid documents are completed, renovations can be made to the building and then the Police Department can proceed with filing for the accreditation, which takes approximately six to nine months. Chief Murphy is currently reviewing the standards and policies.
- Commissioner Whiting directed Mr. Dodies to include an agenda item for updates on the Police Department accreditation starting at the September 23, 2019 Public Health & Safety Meeting.

**X. Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Kristire.