

## 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 Second Alarmers Association & Rescue Squad

- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting called the meeting to order following adjournment of the Finance & Administrative Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting and Commissioner Scull. Absent Commissioner Valenza. Also present: Chief Murphy, Captain Fugelo, Chief Perlmutter, and Assistant Chief Davidson, Randall K. Schaible, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Finance in the absence of David A. Dodies, Township Manager, and Jennifer Prior, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - April 15, 2019:** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports - April 2019:**
  - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Report: Chief Murphy reviewed the following updates:
    - Probationary Officers Czerviski and Hens completed Second Field Training and they are now on regular patrol.
    - Police candidate interviews were conducted to prepare submission of Police Entry Test results to the Civil Service Commission.
    - Officers attended the following trainings: construction equipment thefts, high-risk vehicle stops, court room testimony, patrol drug interdiction, fundamentals of supervision, and refreshers on field sobriety and DUI checkpoints. Detectives and two officers attended training on strangulation investigations, crime scene processing, and DNA submissions. Traffic officers were trained on Total Station equipment. Departmental instructors were trained on TASER and ballistic breaching. The SWAT team attended training at Fort Dix.
    - Detectives continued the following investigations: sexual assaults, a new school shooting threat deemed not credible, drug cases with the Net team, an assault of a management assistant at the high school, and prepared for a retrial of an actor accused of a drug delivery and death charge.
    - Residents are reminded of the following: be vigilant to check bank and credit card statements for unusual activity, be mindful of all unsolicited phone calls for scams, 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, and 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 information.
    - CrimeReports.com internet portal is no longer recommended by the Department. Chief Murphy attended a presentation on Crime Watch and a demonstration is scheduled for staff to review the product.
    - A prescription drug drop box is located in the Police lobby and is accessible 24 hours a

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- day.
- Drug Enforcement Administration "Drug Take Back Day" held on April 27, 2019 was a successful event.
  - Chief Murphy reviewed May statistics of service calls, traffic stops, arrests and Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) inspections.
  - Commissioner Scull inquired on houses that have been egged late at night. Chief Murphy stated that residents should call 911 immediately for an officer to come out and investigate.
- B. Department of Emergency Services: Captain Fugelo reviewed statistics and provided the following updates:
- Members of the Willow Grove Fire Company successfully completed a 56-hour course during March and April to be professionally certified as pumper-drivers/operators. A presentation will be provided at a future meeting.
  - Commissioner Whiting inquired on the status of the new fire truck. Captain Fugelo stated that the main ladder was installed last week and the truck will be taken the week of June 16, 2019 for sign painting with delivery expected mid-July.
  - Commissioner Spearing inquired on volunteers with consideration for earned income tax and suggested implementing a program that would offer college credits for individuals interested in pursuing a career in firefighting. Chief Perlmutter stated that the Fire Company offers compensation toward fire or emergency related classes which is based on grades; however, no one is currently taking classes.
- C. Second Alarmers' Association and Rescue Squad - Assistant Chief Davidson reviewed statistics and provided updates on the following:
- Emergency Management Services events held during the week of May 20, 2019 were a success.
  - On May 18, 2019, SARs members and a few police officers visited a patient and their family who was provided with emergency services for a medical incident due to a car crash.
  - Priority One Dispatch system, that categorizes and prioritizes calls is working well, and an update on the six-month trial will be provided at the next Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting.
- D. Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company: Chief Perlmutter announced the monthly safety tip on propane and charcoal grills:
- For use only outdoors;
  - Locate away from the house, deck railings, eaves, overhanging branches and from children;
  - Keep clean and remove grease build up;
  - Open lid and check the propane tank codes before igniting;
  - Check for propane leaks by applying a light coating of soap and water to line, look for bubbles and a smell of gas odor;
  - If you cannot get a flame when igniting, turn off the valve;
  - If you have a problem, call the Fire Department.
  - The pumper-drivers/operators course was very informative to keep skills up-to-date. The Fire Company is planning to take the second part which focuses on pumper-drivers/operators aerial. New members will be participating in an officers' certification class during the latter part of the year.

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- The Fire Company attended the Upper Moreland Education Food Truck Event with the goal of recruiting volunteers.
- Volunteers are needed. Interested individuals can call the Fire House at 215-659-7633 and speak to a career staff member for more information.

**V. Old Business:**

A. Acquisition of Body Worn Cameras: Chief Murphy provided the following updates:

- Upper Moreland Police Department is working on a review with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).
- A presentation is scheduled on June 13, 2019 at the Rotary Club.
- A mandatory meeting in Carlisle, PA, is scheduled on July 10, 2019 as part of the acquisition process.

**VI. New Business:**

A. Public safety regarding provisions of water supply to areas on and adjacent to Tower Road:

- Max Berlin, a resident of 3010 Tower Road, discussed details of a dry hydrant system that would add fire protection to 30 homes in the area.
- Captain Fugelo inquired if property owners are agreeable to the installation of the dry hydrant. Mr. Berlin stated that he did not meet with property owners but suggested that additional protection of a dry hydrant would reduce the property owners fire insurance.
- Mr. Berlin inquired to Mr. Schaible if prevailing wage would be required for the project. Mr. Schaible stated that the project would require a bid.
- Captain Fugelo inquired on easements. Ms. Prior confirmed that easements would need to be obtained.
- The Committee directed Mr. Berlin to discuss and obtain the consensus of the neighbors before proceeding with the proposal.
- Commissioner Spearing explained an example of a dry hydrant. He suggested budgeting in 2020 for a 537 Plan to identify areas of the Township that are in need of sewerage technology that would result in increased property values and provide fire protection. He stated that the Township has a responsibility to review sewerage, potable water and fire protection issues.
- Mr. Berlin commented that potentially delaying installation of a dry hydrant could pose a liability to the Township.

B. Consider an ordinance amending the Township Code relating to fire prevention, specifically the imposition of fines and penalties by action of the Fire Marshal (or Police Department) related to Unlawfully Parking in designated fire zones:

- The Committee authorized the Township Solicitor to advertise and for the Board of Commissioners to take action at their July 8, 2019 Regular Meeting, an ordinance amending the Township Code relating to fire prevention, specifically the imposition of fines and penalties by action of the **Fire Marshal** (or Police Department) related to Unlawfully Parking in designated fire zones.

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

**VIII. Visitor Comments:**

- Frances Connors, a resident of New Street, commented confusion relating to parking on her street. Chief Murphy clarified that there was confusion between the Police Department's

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report and the Public Works Department's interpretation on how to install the signs. Officer Andrew Misner clarified that signs will be installed on the south side of the street and then switch at the curve where parking is not permitted.

- Mr. Berlin commented on placing the traffic light on blink at the intersection of Byberry Road and Masons Mill Road until the bridge is fixed. Chief Murphy stated that it is PennDOT's decision to set the light on blink.
- Mr. Berlin commented on placing speed limit signs at the intersection of Terwood Road and Edge Hill Road.

**IX. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Lavalley discussed concerns on thru traffic, speeding and parking on Barrett Road and a follow up on a request for speed bumps. Chief Murphy stated that speeding is perception problem and installation of speed bumps would only relocate the issue to the adjacent streets. There were no additional changes made to the recent review of the parking ordinance for Barrett Road. The Police Department continues to use enforcement but has limited resources to allocate. A significant increase in area traffic counts has been recorded in recent years. Commissioner Lavalley inquired on complaints of damaged parked vehicles and pedestrian interactions from the increased traffic on Barrett Road. Chief Murphy stated there have been no complaints on these issues. Officer Misner and Chief Murphy discussed details on speeding statistics reported within the traffic studies.
- Commissioner Whiting asked Commissioner Lavalley about signage at the playground on Barrett Road. Commissioner Lavalley confirmed that there is sufficient signage and efforts have been made to address traffic calming in the playground area. Commissioner Lavalley requested that Chief Murphy direct Traffic Police to review the stops and speed limits in the neighborhood and present their findings at a future Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting.
- Commissioner Lockard inquired on speed display signs to calm traffic. Chief Murphy stated that by the time a driver sees and brakes for the speed display sign, the speed has already been recorded by radar.
- The Committee directed Mr. Schaible to add an agenda item for the status of speeding on Barrett Road to a future Public Health & Safety Committee 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.