

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

Announcements and Presentations:

- A. Commissioner Whiting announced that the Board of Commissioners met in an Executive Session prior to commencement of tonight's Committees Meetings and will meet again at the conclusion to discuss legal and personnel matters.
 - B. Presentation by Kenneth Davidson, Assistant Chief of Operations, Second Alarmer's Association & Rescue Squad – Chain of Survival and Life Savings Citation
 - Assistant Chief Davidson read three separate citations whose patients were later able to return to a normal quality of life. He introduced the patients and presented Chain of Survival Awards with Chain Links to the emergency responders in recognition of their timely efforts that helped save those patients' lives.
 - Commissioner Whiting commended the Second Alarmer's for all their work.
- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting called the Committees Meetings to order at 7:10 p.m.
 - II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting, Commissioners Scull and Valenza, Chief Murphy, Chief Perlmutter, and Chris Strange, Emergency Management Coordinator, attending in the absence of Captain Fugelo. Also present: Randall K. Schaible, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Finance attending in the absence of David A. Dodies, Township Manager, and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
 - III. **Approval of Minutes - February 25, 2019:** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
 - IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports - February 2019:**
 - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Report: Chief Murphy reviewed statistics and provided the following updates:
 - Two new Probationary Officers that were sworn in on February 4, 2019, began their in-house training and were assigned to a patrol squad for field training.
 - The Department received several firearms training evolutions. Officers attended the following trainings: Seatbelts and Occupants Kinematics by ILEE, Traumas in Law Enforcement by COPS Office, Autism Support by PA ASERT and K-9 Emergency Care for handlers by University of Pennsylvania Working Dog Group.
 - Residents should be vigilant to check bank and credit card statements for unusual activity and 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.

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- CrimeReports.com internet portal is no longer recommended by the Department due to ongoing technical issues. Other resources are being researched.
 - Prescription drug drop box is located in the Police lobby and is accessible 24 hours a day.
 - Drug Enforcement Administration Drug Take Back Day will be held on April 27, 2019.
- B. Department of Emergency Services:
- Chris Strange, Emergency Management Coordinator, reviewed statistics from February 2019.
- C. Second Alarmers' Association and Rescue Squad - Assistant Chief Davidson reviewed statistics and updates from February 2019:
- Medicare has announced the pilot program ET3 (Emergency Triage Treat & Transport) that will provide funding to emergency medical services and urgent care centers for patients who do not require transport to the hospital. Medicare has realized that some patients can benefit from care in their home or from a trip to an urgent care center. EMS agencies will be applying for the program that opens in the Summer of 2019.
 - In Fall 2019, a funding opportunity will open for the County 911 Call Center. To enhance the Call Center's capabilities, a nurse line will respond to calls that do not require EMS services.
 - Three new Stryker Power Load Systems were delivered to the EMS station. The systems will enhance the safety of both provider and patient, and can automatically lift up to 700 pounds to load patients securely into the back of the ambulance. The five-year lease program will cost \$132,000.
 - Stop The Bleed program will be held on April 3, 2019 at the Edge Hill Fire Station. Registration and more information can be completed at www.sars.org/training.
 - A new reporting software is enabling SARs to obtain better data on the administration of Narcan and overdoses from opioids.
- D. Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company:
- Chief Perlmutter announced the monthly safety tip on clothes dryers with a maintenance checklist to follow:
 - Check electrical line is properly grounded;
 - Clear outdoor vent flap from snow, etc.;
 - Always use a lint filter;
 - Clean lint trap after every use;
 - Dryer area is clear of boxes, clothes, cleaning supplies, etc.;
 - Dry clothes outside that are absorbed with flammable substances such as gasoline, paint thinner or solvents prior to washing and drying;
 - Installation, inspection and service is provided by a professional;
 - Ridged or flexible tubing is used to vent to the outside;
 - Air exhaust pipe is not restricted;
 - Gas lines are free from leaks and in tack;
 - Follow manufacturer's operating instructions;
 - Ensure correct plugs and outlets are used with the machine;
 - Turn off the dryer before leaving the house.
 - The Fire Company applied for a grant earlier in the year from the Office of State Fire Commissioner and received an award of \$14,800.00 which will be used to build a fire training facility.

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- Recruitment efforts have resulted in three probationary members, one pending application, and one recent application request.
- The Fire Company is seeking firemen, fire police, auxiliary member and an accountant to help with meetings and fund drives.
- Commissioner Whiting invited Fireman Jim to the podium and asked why he likes his job. Jim stated that he likes helping people.

V. **Old Business** - Nothing to report.

VI. **New Business:**

- Chief Murphy stated that he received a late notice from PennDOT that they will close Byberry Road at the arched bridge, just east of Pioneer Road, for 15 weeks (approximately four months) beginning on or about April 1, 2019. The posted detour is Davisville Road to County Line Road to Second Street Pike and back to Byberry Road. The Township will meet with the contractor on March 19, 2019. Details of the closure are posted on the Township website.
- Commissioner Valenza directed Chief Murphy to inquire at the meeting on the closure of Pioneer Road at Byberry Road and whether there will be work on the southside of the road by the guard rail.

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

VIII. **Visitor Comments:**

- Sue Worth-LaManna, a resident, inquired on the status of the aggressive driving initiative. Chief Murphy stated that the Police Department participates in the Federal grant program offered through PennDOT which conducts five to seven, no-tolerance, details per year.
- Ms. LaManna requested that a camera be posted at the stop sign on Edgehill Road and Terwood Road. Chief Murphy stated that a camera is not permissible and he added that enforcement cameras are extremely limited in the Commonwealth.

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing inquired on the status of the fire ladder truck. Mr. Strange stated that the truck is on the assembly line and an update will be provided at a future Committee Meeting.
- Commissioner Spearing inquired on installing a traffic light at Terwood and Edge Hill Road. Chief Murphy stated that the crash data does not support the need for a traffic light. The vast majority of incidents at the stop sign are rear ended crashes heading eastbound toward Bryn Athyn.

X. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Kristire.