

Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting

Public Health & Safety Committee Members: Commissioner and Committee Chair Charles M. Whiting, Commissioner Kip McFatrige, Commissioner Nicolas O. Scull; Andrew J. Block, Chief of Police; Edward Glassman, Fire Chief; Kenneth E. Davidson, Assistant Chief Operations & Administration - Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad

- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Charles M. Whiting called the meeting to order following adjournment of the Finance & Administrative Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting, Commissioners McFatrige and Scull, Police Chief Block, Fire Chief Glassman, Assistant Chief Davidson. Also present: Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor, Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – November 28, 2022 - The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Public Comments:**
 - A. Commissioner Spearing stated that there is a problem with feral cats in the community and the lack of an animal control officer.
 - Jerry Carlson, a resident of Dorothy Street, Shirley, a resident of Krugel Street, Linda Humphries, a resident of Dorothy Street, all shared experiences encountered on their properties regarding feral cats.
 - An 18-year resident of 2600 Dorothy Street stated that the property owner at 2519 Eberly Street has been spoken to about feeding the cats by neighbors and by the police.
 - Eric, a representative from Forgotten Cats, a 501(c) organization located on Wyandotte Road, discussed the long-term solutions.
 - Commissioner Spearing requested that the Township employ resources to resolve the issues.
 - Commissioner McFatrige stated that the matter will be investigated and Commissioner Spearing will provide the neighbors with information.
 - B. Caroline Young, a resident of Gilpin Road, described concerns over safety at the stop sign located near Broughton Park at the corner of Barrett Road and Sheldon Road and suggested solutions to slow drivers and make them stop at the sign.
 - Chief Block stated that traffic officers will be directed to investigate the area and provide a recommendation.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports – December 2022:**
 - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Reports: Chief Block discussed the following:
 - The Police Chiefs of Montgomery County issued a letter today condemning the police behavior demonstrated during the incident that occurred in Memphis, Tennessee. He added that the behavior is not condoned at all in law enforcement and is reprehensible by Upper Moreland standards as well as throughout Montgomery County.
 - Statistics and details in his report.
 - An increase in motor vehicle thefts and thefts inside motor vehicles. IKEA will be donating steering wheel anti-theft club bars, which are available at the Police Station, free of charge to residents.

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- An increase in catalytic converters, which continues to rise each year. Proactive measures include: adding directive patrols, and a letter of petition was sent to Senator Maria Collette and Representative Nancy Guerst requesting additional legislation be enacted to assist the Police Department with investigations by creating a reporting process with proper ID from individuals turning in converters at scrap yards.
- Commissioner McFatridge highly encouraged the public to lock their cars in other municipalities as well.

B. Department of Emergency Services – Chief Glassman discussed the following:

- Statistics and details in his report including a simulated tornado table-top exercise completed by the Township’s managers.
- Attended a Fire Prevention Summit hosted by Dr. Laurie Moore Morrell of the United States Fire Administration on October 11, 2022.
- Shared a video of how quickly fire spreads and the importance of having an escape plan.

C. Second Alarmer’s Association and Rescue Squad - Chief Davidson reviewed the following:

- Statistics and details in his reports.
- The process continues to select vendors and utilize ARPA funding to conduct a four-phase study of the Emergency Medical Services System in Montgomery County.

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

VI. **New Business** – Nothing to report.

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

VIII. **Visitor Comments** – Nothing to report.

IX. **Commissioner Comments** – Nothing to report.

XI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.