

**Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting**

**Public Health & Safety Committee Members:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Charles M. Whiting, Commissioner Kip McFatridge, 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 McFatridge and Scull, Police Chief Block, Assistant Chief Davidson, Fire Chief Glassman. Also present: Colleen Marsini, Township Solicitor, Randall K. Schaible, Assistant Township Manager/Director Finance in the absence of Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager,
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – September 26, 2022 - The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports - September 2022:**
  - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Reports - Chief Block discussed the following:
    - Statistics from calls, crimes, offenses, arrests, investigations, citizen concerns and traffic.
    - Community-oriented police activities and trainings were reviewed.
    - Drug Take Back event is October 29, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Police Station and Giant on Old York Road in conjunction with Pack The Police Car Food Drive to benefit the Willow Grove Food Pantry and the Montgomery County Health & Human Services & Children in Need.
    - Gun Trade In Program sponsored by the District Attorney's Office is scheduled for November 16, 2022 from 4-8 p.m. and November 19, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Abington Police Department.
    - Commissioner Spearing inquired about the status of signs placed without permission in the right-of-ways. Chief Block replied that warnings are issued, the signs are collected by Public Works and sign issuers have been contacted.
    - Commissioner Prousi commended the police staff on their professionalism in teaching parents to install child car seats.
    - Dr. Lynnette Saunders, EAC, commented that a drone was flying around her house. Chief Block explained that there may have been an investigation in the area; however, she can call the Police Department at 911 and an officer will come out to check.
    - Sue Worth-LaManna, Chair of the Historical Commission, inquired about the area's homeless population and how police assist them. Chief Block replied that they are working with Abington Township to establish some type of facility which offers shelter and services.
  - B. Department of Emergency Services – Chief Glassman discussed the following:
    - Statistics and details from emergency responses, incidents, inspections, investigations, fees and collections, community events, detector installations, department trainings, and thank you letters.

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- Reminded the public to check e-batteries, auxiliary heating appliances, change batteries in clocks, fire detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, clean out fireplaces, and flues. If anyone needs assistance, they can call the Firehouse.

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

- Statistics from emergency responses, opioid incidents, transportations, patients' outcomes, yearly comparisons, staffing, trainings, donations and participation in events.

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

VI. **New Business:**

A. Consider the adoption by resolution, the Civil Service Commission's adopted **Resolution R-2022-12**, which revised Section 4.3; General Examination Requirements for Promotion; Section A. Police Dept to change the weighting for the promotional examination for the position of Sergeant and Lieutenant to (30%) for the Written Exam and (70%) for the Oral Exam on a (100) point scale:

- Chief Block discussed requirements of an officer that include administrative written and oral communication skills with the public as well as within rank and file of the police department, have working knowledge of policies, demonstrate the ability to handle stress and exhibit de-escalation in critical incidents.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting.

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

VIII. **Visitor Comments:**

- Sue Worth-LaManna, President of the Historical Commission, thanked the Fire Department and the Police Department for their assistance in allowing the open burn at the Farmstead Park event on October 22, 2022.

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Whiting reminded the public to watch out for children and practice safety during Halloween.

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

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.