

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, Fire Chief Glassman, Assistant Chief Davidson. Also present: Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor, Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – October 24, 2022 - The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports - October 2022:**
 - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Reports - Chief Block discussed the following:
 - Statistics from calls, crimes, offenses, arrests, investigations, citizen concerns, DUI screenings, traffic and bus citations, community-oriented police activities and additional trainings.
 - Drug Take Back event occurred on October 29, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Police Station and at Giant on Old York Road in conjunction with Pack The Police Car Food Drive, which benefited the Willow Grove Food Pantry and the Montgomery County Health & Human Services & Children in Need.
 - Package thefts occur on porch fronts and doorsteps of homes during the holiday season. Ask neighbors to pick them up, use security cameras, and require signatures. Do not carry large amounts of cash while out shopping, avoid overloading yourself with bags and take them out to the car and lock them in the trunk. Be aware of your surroundings and walk with confidence.
 - 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 Scull and Chief Block shared that there is an epidemic of car part thefts in the region, and a task force was established by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office to combat the problem.
 - Commissioner McFatridge commented concern on the amount of bus patrol citations.
 - Commissioner Spearing shared that Walmart had a successful reopening event and commended their contributions to the Township's Police, Fire and Library services.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented concerns about the continuing amount of signage violations, and stated the ordinance should be seriously observed.
 - 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.
 - Videoed real-life examples demonstrating how swiftly a fire can spread in a house or an

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office.

- Safety tips to position Christmas trees away from areas of egress in the house and do not overload outlets or place electrical cords under carpets. Contact the Fire Department with any questions or fire detector needs.
 - Margie Peters, Director of the Library, shared that the new voice activated fire alarm was used to successfully evacuate the building this evening and thanked the Board of Commissioners for advocating installation of the new system.
- C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad - Chief Davidson reviewed the following:
- Statistics from emergency calls, responses, opioid incidents, transportations, patients' outcomes, yearly comparisons, staffing, trainings, donations and participation in events.
 - An Emergency Medical Responders Course conducted by SARs instructors two days a week at Eastern Center for Arts & Technology providing an introduction to EMS, fire services or law enforcement, which will help to recruit certified students to entry-level employment in public safety.

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

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

VII. **Other Items:**

A. Updated Emergency Management Basic Plan:

- Chief Glassman explained that the Plan is updated and adopted every ten years.
- Commissioner McFtridge inquired about the status of training and Chief Glassman replied that Township administration staff will participate next week.
- Commissioner Spearing commented on the seriousness of public safety budgets and suggested that the Committee recommend the Board of Commissioners contact neighboring townships and boroughs to support a free comprehensive study conducted by Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for regionalization.
- Chief Davidson explained that the study requires a letter submitted from a municipality.
- The Committee directed Mr. Candland to follow up and prepare the submission of a letter with a request to DCED.

B. Consider the cancellation of the December 19, 2022 Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting:

- The Committee agreed to cancel the December 19, 2022 Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting.

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

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Whiting wished everyone happy holidays.

XI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.