

December 5, 2012
Curtis Hall

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Commissioner J. Andrew Sharkey, Chairman, presiding. Members present were Commissioners McKeown, Norris, Portner and Simon. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Haywood.

Staff present were Kenneth Hellendall, EMS Director; David Jones, Interim Planner/Zoning Officer; Kevin O'Brien, Deputy Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; and Bryan T. Havir, Acting Township Manager.

Also present was Joseph Bagley, Esq., Solicitor. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Sharkey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and announced that the Commissioners held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

1. Report of the Police Chief. Chief Norris reported the following:

a. The Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of October, 2012.

b. A proposed Ordinance to amend the Traffic Code as follows:

Add: Park Avenue, "Handicapped Parking" at 7919 Park Avenue.

Delete: Paxson Avenue, "Handicapped Parking" at 709 Paxson Avenue.

c. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 285, thereof, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" as presented (see attached).

d. The Cheltenham Police Department has been approved by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. This approval is subject to a formal vote by the Commission in early Spring 2013. Sgt. Michael Eves was given a special compliment for his efforts in this respect. The accreditation process included a two-day tour of the police facility, review of methods and procedures, and adherence to certain standards. Said accreditation could decrease police/Township liability and permit the Township Police Department to be eligible for additional grants.

Mr. Haywood commended Chief Norris and the Police Department. He noted that said accreditation necessitates a tremendous effort.

Mr. Norris asked about accreditation statistics. Chief Norris responded that only five percent (5%) of the 1200 police departments in the state are accredited.

e. Chief Norris advised of a link on the Township website, under the Police Department, for the PennDOT Emergency Contact Program. Residents can join to have their emergency contacts entered on their Bureau of Motor Vehicle information that is only available to law enforcement.

f. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously accepted the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of October, 2012.

2. Report of the Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal O'Neil reported that the month of November had the highest number of runs and significant incidences.

Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the Fire Marshal for the month of November, 2012.

3. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the EMS Director for the month of November, 2012.

4. Under Report of the Acting Township Manager

a. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Simon, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a Resolution commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Emergency Medical Services.

5. Under Old Business:

Joseph Stuckert, Chief of the Glenside Fire Company, gave an update on the Fire Companies' Long Range Planning Committee activities. He reported that getting volunteers is the major challenging issue; certification and intense training are needed; the Committee is reviewing current obstacles and how to move forward in the future; all five (5) Fire Chiefs and Presidents are committee members; preparation of a Mission Statement; and the development of a questionnaire for distribution to the Fire Company members, Commissioners and Department Heads. Mr. Stuckert assured the committee that the Fire Companies have a plan in place to make sure that every call in the Township receives response.

Mr. Haywood suggested that the Fire Companies work with Township Staff for support and suggestions.

Mr. Portner asked if the Long Range Plan includes maintaining all five (5) Fire Companies. Mr. Stuckert responded that the committee has not yet reached that point of discussion and is currently focused on requirements and expectations.

Mr. Sharkey requested a quarterly update from the Fire Companies on the activities of the Long Range Planning Committee.

6. Under New Business:

a. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a Resolution honoring William Obrecht, Sr. for 50-years of service with Elkins Park Fire Company.

7. Under Citizens' Forum:

a. Jack Grant and Lucy Angelone, owners of businesses on Central Avenue in Cheltenham Village ("Village") addressed the Committee regarding speeding along Central Avenue especially between 4 pm and 6 pm; and accidents at the intersection of Beecher and Central Avenues. Mr. Grant suggested limiting traffic to "local traffic only". Ms. Angelone stated that in one accident a car came into her store's window. She asked about extending the green light on Cottman Avenue.

Chief Norris reported on several traffic matters regarding the Village area as follows:

- The intersection of Beecher and Central Avenues does not meet PennDOT's criteria for a Stop Sign. The last accident at this intersection was caused by a driver who was cell phone distracted.
- The traffic light timing at the intersection of Cottman and Central Avenues is causing the issues in the Village. The City of Philadelphia will not cooperate because it is concerned about traffic backups at Rising Sun Avenue.
- It would be illegal to restrict traffic to "local traffic only".
- The Police Department is using speed monitors during heavy traffic hours; there are extra sector car details and an increase in writing tickets.
- A 1992 traffic circulation study for the Village determined that one-way streets could be the solution to the traffic issues. Said study was again reviewed about one (1) year ago, and it is still valid. Residents rejected the proposal in 1992 because they did not want the streets to be one way.

Mr. Norris asked about the dissemination of monies from speeding tickets. Chief Norris responded that most of the money goes to the state, the Township receives very little in revenue, and the cost of writing the tickets is not even recovered.

Mr. Simon asked if there is any discussion among municipalities in this respect. Chief Norris stated that it has not discussed. Mr. Sharkey mentioned a movement to have radar. Chief Norris stated that even that money generated by radar-issued tickets would go to the state. It was Mr. Sharkey's opinion that the Township needed to reach out to its state representatives in this regard as well as asking them to use their good offices to help change the traffic situation at the intersection at Cottman and Central Avenues.

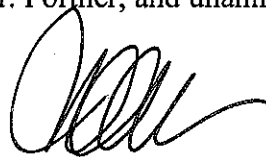
Ms. Angelone asked about the influence of a residents' petition. Mr. McKeown suggested individual letters and phone calls. Mr. Norris felt that a petition could also be effective.

b. Albert Meinster had concerns as follows:

- The lack of sidewalks along Ashbourne Road and Spring Avenue. A sergeant from the Police Department discussed it with him. He felt that the sergeant's behavior and approach was exemplary, and this type of behavior should be a rule and be expected of all officers.
- He suggested "zebra" lines be used for pedestrian crosswalks. He felt they are more visible to motorists. He asked Mr. Sharkey to review this.
- He cited a fatal hit and run accident that occurred last year at the crosswalk on Church Road at the Elkins Park Library.
- Residents still have concerns about the use of the fire siren at the Elkins Park Fire Company. Representatives of the Fire Company met with residents and made a good case but the neighbors are forming a committee to address the matter again.
- Concerns about the oversight provided by the Commissioners to the Police Department and asked Mr. Sharkey to address it.

Mr. Sharkey responded that Mr. Meinster seems to be the only individual who has a complaint with the Police Department, which he felt stemmed from a personal situation. It was Mr. Sharkey's opinion that Mr. Meinster's personal issue did not warrant any changes that he suggested regarding oversight. Mr. Sharkey further stated that the Township Manager is the Chief Administrator of the Township and manages the daily operations of municipal government, which includes the Police Department. If there are issues with the Police Department, they are discussed with the Township Manager.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.



Bryan T. Havir
Acting Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM, CHAPTER 285 THEREOF, ENTITLED VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, BY AMENDING CERTAIN STREET AND PARKING REGULATIONS.

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Cheltenham hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. The Code of the Township of Cheltenham, Chapter 285, Article IV, entitled Schedule of Traffic Regulations, Section 285-43 thereof is hereby amended by **DELETING** the following:

PAXSON AVENUE (11) HANDICAPPED PARKING at 709. This addition is effective for the duration period that this resident is eligible for a reserved handicapped parking space.

SECTION 2. The Code of the Township of Cheltenham, Chapter 285, Article IV, entitled Schedule of Traffic Regulations, Section 285-43 thereof is hereby amended by **ADDING** the following:

PARK AVENUE (20) HANDICAPPED PARKING at 7919. This addition is effective for the duration period that this resident is eligible for a reserved handicapped parking space.

SECTION 3. That in all other respects Chapter 285 of the Code of the Township of Cheltenham is hereby approved and accepted as amended, and shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

ENACTED into an Ordinance this **19th day of December, A.D., 2012.**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM

By _____
Art Haywood, President

ATTEST: _____
Bryan T. Havir, Acting Secretary