

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** for January 2021 was held tonight via web-conference, Chairman Brockington presiding. Members present were Commissioners Areman, Holland, Rappoport, Pransky, Zygmund-Felt, and Ex-Officio member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; John Slavin, Acting Police Chief; Scott Lynch, Fire Marshall and Kenneth Hellendall, Director EMS and Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mr. Norris announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel, potential litigation, potential purchase of real property, emergency preparedness and protection of public safety, and matters which if discussed in public would violate a lawful privilege.

Mr. Brockington called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 7:37 p.m.

1. **Report of the Acting Police Chief**

- a) Acting Chief Slavin reviewed the Police Clearance and Juvenile Clearance Reports for the month of November 2021.

There was a discussion about retail theft and armed robberies in the past several months and Mr. Brockington asked if there were any specific areas where this was occurring. Chief Slavin said most events were happening along the southern border of the Township.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Acting Police Chief.

- b) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for COSTARS in the amount of \$177,750 for the purchase/replacement of five (5) Ford Interceptor Utility police vehicles.

This is a budgeted expense for 2022. Mr. Holland expressed about the cost this early in the calendar year without having a solid read on what revenue will look like and asked if the purchase order could be approved later in the year while still receiving delivery in 2022. Chief Slavin stated that due to supply chain concerns, many of the auto manufacturers are having an early cutoff for ordering 2022 cars. Even with ordering the vehicles now, delivery will not happen until then. Mr. Holland stated he would vote no, primarily because of his concern around the impact of COVID, not that he does not want to get these cars on the road this year. He said he felt it is a little too early and would feel more comfortable looking at a March or April timeframe; but he said understands the supply chain concerns.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee voted 6-1 to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve a purchase order for the purchase/replacement of five (5) Ford Interceptor Utility police vehicles through COSTARS in the amount of \$177,750 (Ayes: Areman, Brockington, Norris, Rappoport, Pransky, Zygmund-Felt; Nay: Holland).

- c) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for CODY Systems in the amount of \$17,570.52 for the annual support from January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a purchase order for CODY Systems in the amount of \$17,570.52.

- d) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for PA Chiefs of Police Association in the amount of \$7,000 for Livescan & CPIN maintenance fees for 2022.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order to PA Chiefs of Police Association in the amount of \$7,000 for Livescan & CPIN maintenance fees for 2022.

- e) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for Montgomery County Community College in the amount of \$5,995 for Police Academy training for Marques Duprey from January 3, 2022 to June 13, 2022.

Mr. Norris asked for an explanation on academy training and Ms. Rappoport asked if there was a timeframe of service after training ends. Chief Slavin gave further description of the Police Academy and said he and the Township Manager will discuss an agreement being created where an officer is obligated to stay with the Department for at least one year. He also noted that the Department will be reimbursed 75% of the cost of tuition by the State. Mr. Zienkowski added that not requiring the academy prior to hiring helps add diversity to the Police force.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order to Montgomery County Community College in the amount of \$5,995 for Police Academy training for Marques Duprey from January 3, 2022 to June 13, 2022.

- f) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for Chris Boyle Law Enforcement Consulting, LLC in the amount of \$5,841 for 2022 monthly Case Law updates membership renewal.

Chief Slavin explained this provides valuable training and updates on civil liability and criminal law and is received monthly via email. The funds would come out of the Asset Forfeiture account and not affect the budget. There was further discussion on how these updates are distributed and how staff can monitor officers are reading it. Mr. Areman asked if the cost was per head and if it was, could it be emailed to command staff and reviewed with officers during roll call. The Committee requested further information before approving.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee tabled the purchase order for Chris Boyle Law Enforcement Consulting, LLC in the amount of \$5,841 until questions regarding the cost could be answered.

- g) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order in the amount of \$5,000 to Upper Dublin Township for the Montgomery County SWAT-East Region Team Assessment.

Ms. Rappoport asked if Abington and Springfield Police participate and what other departments pay. Chief Slavin stated Abington Police has their own SWAT, and Springfield is part of another regional team, however all work together should there be an incident. The cost within the East region is equally split.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order to Upper Dublin Township in the amount of \$5,000 for the Montgomery County SWAT-East Region Team Assessment.

- h) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. (VCS) in the amount of \$4,561.04 for the annual software support for the Police Scheduling System for February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order to Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$4,561.04 for the annual software support for the Police Scheduling System for February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023.

- i) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for Lexipol in the amount of \$4,480 for the annual software support for the PoliceOne Academy annual training.

This is a new online training program that would allow officers to complete mandatory and voluntary training online that can be tracked. Mr. Pransky asked if training completion was looked at for candidates for promotion to which Chief Slavin responded yes. Mr. Areman asked if the department identifies an officer who needs improvement, could this training be used to which Chief Slavin responded yes. Mr. Norris asked if this invoice could be paid under asset forfeiture. Chief Slavin said this may be difficult because it was a budgeted line item. Mr. Holland suggested the online training be tied into the Chris Boyle case law updates to reinforce each other.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order to Lexipol in the amount of \$4,480 for the annual software support for the PoliceOne Academy annual training.

- j) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for DEVO & Associates, LLC in the amount of \$2,749.88 for modem kits for the parking kiosks.

This request is to upgrade the three parking kiosks to 4G, the credit card and cell phone capability to continue to use the kiosks efficiently and generate revenue. Mr. Pransky feels the amount being charged for each kit is expensive and given the rollout of the 5G technology, what is the assurance of longevity or upgradeability each time technology changes. Chief Slavin will look into and bring back to the committee.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee tabled the purchase order for DEVO & Associates, LLC in the amount of \$2,749.88, for modem kits for the parking kiosks until questions regarding the cost could be answered.

- k) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for Strategic Investigative Resources in the amount of \$2,625 for polygraph examinations for seven (7) potential new hires.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved the purchase order for Strategic Investigative Resources in the amount of \$2,625.

- l) Chief Slavin reviewed two department compliments. Springfield Township Police complimented Cheltenham Officers Farrell & Walsh's actions in responding to a suicidal armed subject. With their assistance, the male safely exited the home and was taken to Montgomery County Emergency Services for treatment. Officer Sneeringer was complimented by a resident who said he went above and beyond in making sure her husband, with early dementia, got to the hospital after wandering off while she was at work and notifying her.

## 2. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

Mr. Lynch presented the fire report for the month of November 2021.

Mr. Lynch noted the State of Pennsylvania will be adopting all of the 2018 International Construction Codes (ICC) on February 14, 2022 and will be approved by Public Safety in February. He noted that the Residential and Fire Codes have stayed the same and there are some minor changes to the Mechanical Codes. Any building in process would be grandfathered under the 2015 Code.

Mr. Lynch informed the Committee that the State comes in to review ADA Codes and chooses three recently completed projects to review. He is happy to state that the Township passed and is good for

another five years. He thanked Building Inspector Tom Cignalia and the third party inspection agency for their assistance.

There was a discussion on the recent tragic fires in Philadelphia and New York and the Committee asked that information be posted online regarding smoke detector safety and who to call to obtain a smoke detector. Mr. Lynch said he would write something up letting residents know they can call his office to obtain a smoke detector and request installation free of charge. He will also make sure the Fire Companies put word out regarding fire safety on a regular basis.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the November 2021 report of the Fire Marshal.

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

- a) Mr. Hellendall presented the EMS Operational Report for the month of December 2021 and Financial, Detail, and Statistical Reports for the month of November 2021.

Mr. Hellendall stated that COVID has been increasing and half the EMS staff has been affected. At one point, there were three ambulances in Eastern Montgomery County in service – d Cheltenham being one of them. EMS is also covering service for neighboring townships. Hospitals are full and wait times vary between six and 16 hours. EMS is taking longer than 35 minutes to clear the hospitals. He is asking people who have sniffles or mild symptoms to call their primary care physician, not go to the ER or call 911.

Mr. Hellendall said progress is being made with mental health issues and is working closely with the Police Department to get mental health patients to a facility that will help them instead of the hospitals, which are dealing with COVID.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the EMS Director.

- b) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for Witmer Public Safety Group in the amount of \$5,088.55 for the purchase of EMS badges.

There was discussion regarding who the badges were for, how many and the cost. Mr. Hellendall said these badges are to replace the EMS staff badges, which are over 20 years old, and worn as part of the uniform. Mr. Hellendall estimated the cost per badge around \$70-\$80 each and they are customized with Cheltenham Township EMS and the rank of the staff member. These badges are also used as a form of identification. Three bids were received and this was the least expensive of the three.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order to Witmer Public Safety Group in the amount of \$5,088.55 to the purchase of EMS badges.

4. **Report of the EMA Director**

- a) Mr. Hellendall reviewed the ever-changing COVID policy and said he is working on identifying Township employees who are not fully vaccinated. The CDC states that fully vaccinated is now two shots plus a booster for the purposes of quarantine. He met with the yard's Union Rep and answered questions they had.

The speed signs are being moved around the Township with the help of Community Service Officer, Jennifer Clark and they are well-received by residents.

All overtime assisting Upper Providence during Hurricane Ida has been reimbursed directly by Upper Providence Township. Kim Kirschner is also working on other reimbursements due to Hurricane Ida.

Mr. Areman thanked Mr. Hellendall, Ms. Kirschner and Township staff for being on their toes during COVID and the ever-changing policies. This is essential and important to maintain Township services.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the EMA Director.

- b) Consider recommending approval of an emergency purchase order for Sunline Supply in the amount of \$7,600 for the purchase of COVID-19 test kits.

Mr. Norris asked whether employees are responsible for the cost of testing, since there is currently a policy that mandates vaccine or weekly testing. Mr. Hellendall said there is no cost to the employees. The tests are being used properly per the policy and the staff is happy to get tests from the Township since a lot of places are sold out. Mr. Norris asked if there are any incentives in place to get employees vaccinated and Mr. Hellendall said that some departments have been creative, peer pressure is happening and unfortunately unvaccinated people are getting sick or know people getting sick and it's hitting home. Mr. Pransky stated that insurance companies will be required to pay for tests and asked if we will be able to be reimbursed. Mr. Hellendall said Ms. Kirchner is already looking into it.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously approved a purchase order to Sunline Supply in the amount of \$7,600 to purchase COVID-19 tests.

- b) Consider recommending approval of an emergency purchase order for New Holland Auto Group in the amount of \$34,660 for the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 for the new EMA vehicle.

Mr. Hellendall said Ms. Kirchner is currently is driving a 2010 Ford Escape that can no longer tow and was used by previous township staff. They chose the 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 because it can hold more and barricades can easily be placed inside. The pricing was also \$5,000 less than other 2022 vehicles and they are still coming in under budget.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a purchase order to New Holland Auto Group in the amount of \$34,660 for the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 for the new EMA vehicle.

- 5. **Old Business:** None
- 6. **New Business:** None
- 7. **Citizens Forum:** None

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Brockington, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

  
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Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

per Eileen Wass