

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** for January was held tonight, Chairman Brockington, presiding. Members present were Commissioners, Holland, Rappoport, Pransky, Sharkey and Zygmund-Felt. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Commissioner Norris.

Staff present were Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; John Frye, Chief of Police; Edward Joseph Stuckert, Street Lighting and Traffic Signal Superintendent; and Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; Mark Eisold, Township Engineer. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Brockington called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Brockington announced that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss pending litigation, personnel issues, and matters that would violate attorney-client privilege if discussed in public.

1. **Report of the Police Chief**

- A. Chief Frye reviewed the Police Clearance and Juvenile Clearance Reports for the month of November 2018.
- B. Chief Frye announced the promotion of Detective John Barr to Sergeant. He is serving in the Patrol Division on B Squad.
- C. Chief Frye announced the hiring of two police officers who started on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 and will be formally sworn in on January 23, 2019 at the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting.
- D. Chief Frye noted the Montgomery County Police Consortium testing for new Police Officers will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Montgomery County Community College. Applications can be obtained online beginning January 23, 2019.

Mr. Norris and Mr. Holland inquired about advertising to attract diverse applicants. Chief Frye stated the Consortium does the advertising. The Township will post on various social media outlets, the Township website, Route 309 billboard and attend Job and Career Fairs to attract candidates. This test is being held under the current Township Civil Service Regulations.

- E. Mr. Brockington inquired about the status of Cheltenham PAL. Chief Frye stated there is a meeting scheduled on January 22, 2019 to review recruitment, fundraising, and events for the upcoming year. The Township is working with the School District to distribute a survey via email blast inquiring what the youth would like to see with the PAL program to help plan the programs and increase participation and attendance. PAL is working closely with Cheltenham High School PTO member Abbey Schuster.
- F. Mr. Brockington inquired about the status of the former Auxiliary Police Unit. Chief Frye stated the Police Department invited the members who previously resigned to attend the regularly-scheduled Auxiliary Police Unit meeting on Tuesday, January 29, 2019. The Unit should be back up and running and ready for Spring 2019 Township and special community events planned which this Unit previously assisted with.

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

2. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

Mr. O'Neill reviewed the Fire Marshal's report for the month of November 2018, which includes a re-examination of the staffing needs for day, night and weekend responses.

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Minutes of the December 6, 2018 Fire Board Meeting and the October Report of the Fire Marshal.

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

A. Ms. Rappoport suggested that the Annual Membership Drive be updated on the Township website and a press release be issued about the importance of this program for the residents.

B. Mr. Havir stated that Paramedic Frank Boyle was being promoted to fill the Lieutenant position on Monday, January 21, 2019 since Lieutenant Kenneth Beerger has retired.

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Emergency Medical Services.

4. **Report of the Emergency Management Coordinator**

Mr. Sharkey thanked the members of the Emergency Management Staff for their work, in collaboration with the School District, during the November 15, 2018 snow storm.

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Emergency Management Coordinator.

5. **Report of the Township Manager:**

A. Intersection of New Second Street and Coventry Avenue. Mr. Havir explained that he and other staff members received correspondence from residents regarding safe pedestrian access through the intersection of New Second Street and Coventry Avenue to Coventry Park, which has a walking trail on it. Staff reviewed their concerns and suggested that the Township submit a request to PennDOT to evaluate the intersection and make recommendations to address resident concerns, since New Second Street is a State highway.

Some of the recommendations made by both staff and residents include: readjusting the time of the traffic signals, the addition of pedestrian signals, safety signage, adding sidewalks and ADA-compliant crosswalks. Mr. Havir explained that a response could take up to six months, based on past experience with similar requests of PennDOT. Mr. Havir also explained that because the intersection involves a state road, all signals, signs, road markings, etc. must comply with the signal permit. If existing conditions do not match the PennDOT permit for the intersection – such as missing crosswalks – the Township can re-install them. If there are improvements that are not listed in the permit, then they would need to be approved by PennDOT and paid for by the Township out of its Capital Budget. Mr. Havir reminded the Committee that sidewalks are the responsibility and cost to the property owner. There are also significant challenges to expanding sidewalks in the area, including redesigning drainage

culverts that would require approval by the Army Corps of Engineers; an estimated cost of \$200,000 and upwards. There are some grants for which this project may meet the criteria; however, funding is competitive, limited and often has changing requirements, so there is no guarantee that such a project could be partially funded by grants. Chief Frye reported that there have been five reportable crashes at the intersection of New Second Street and Coventry Avenue. Two crashes involved deer and three crashes were the result of distracted drivers.

The Committee discussed ways to both work with PennDOT and on its own to improve the area with regard to speeding, narrow bridge, and blind turns. Staff to evaluate the “low hanging fruit” options at a future staff meeting and bring the issue back to the Committee for further discussion. The Committee will contact State Senator Art Haywood and State Representative Steve McCarter’s offices to assist with the PennDOT review process once a letter is filed requesting PennDOT’s assistance with a technical evaluation.

The following residents expressed concerns and shared their experience and ideas with respect to the intersection of New Second Street and Coventry Avenue:

- Michael Shechtman, 1133 Coventry Avenue
- James McWilliams, 1110 Coventry Avenue
- Ellen Einhorn, 1129 Coventry Avenue
- Roberta Lee, 1133 Coventry Avenue

B. Traffic issues on the 400 block of Valley Road. Messrs. Brockington and Havir discussed emails they received from residents inquiring about signage, pavement markings and roadway line markings. The Committee discussed the rear egress from the commercial properties along Cheltenham Avenue. Mr. Havir will check the Land Development Plans and present a Planning Evaluation Report to the Committee at a future meeting.

C. Ashmead Road Bridge Replacement Project Detours. Chief Frye stated that traffic volume from northbound Tookany Creek Parkway into Cheltenham Village has caused significant gridlock through the area. After careful evaluation, staff decided to close the northbound lane of Tookany Creek Parkway. He asked for patience of residents and commuters through the area, as there is no one solution and staff will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as determined to be appropriate. In addition, the traffic light at Tookany Creek Parkway and Ashbourne Road was increased from five seconds to 30 seconds for left turns, to allow for better traffic flow. A detour modification plan will need to be submitted to PennDOT to revise the detour permanently. The current detour plan does not include the use of flaggers, but the Committee will have the Township Engineer evaluate whether or not it would be appropriate.

The following residents spoke about their concerns about traffic congestion related to the Ashmead Road Bridge Replacement Project:

- Gregory Strupczewski, 309 Highland Avenue
- Ibn Ingram, 610 Central Avenue
- Dennis Bieryl, 1104 Orleans Road

6. **Old Business:** None.

7. **New Business:**

Mr. Brockington announced that Montgomery County had issued a Code Blue from 9:00 p.m. January 16, 2019 until 9:00 a.m. January 17, 2019.

8. **Citizens' Forum:**

Richard Smeyne, 534 Elkins Avenue, expressed concern about stop sign violations and pedestrian crossings at Spring Avenue and Park Avenue, especially during the a.m. and p.m. rush hours. He thought it might be possible that the new overhead LED lighting was interfering with drivers' vision making it difficult for someone to see pedestrians in the dark and asked that lighting be added over the sidewalk corner, rather than the center of the intersection.

Elizabeth Karras, Pleasant Hill Road, expressed concern about the way the Committee handles traffic and pedestrian safety issues.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Brockington, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



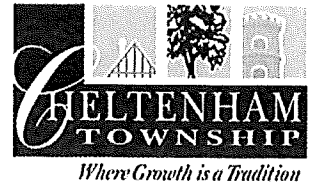
Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

per Kathryn Gallagher



Meeting Attendance Sheet

Public Safety Committee
Public Affairs Committee
Wednesday, January 16, 2019



Curtis Hall

1250 West Church Road | Wyncote, PA 19095

(Please Print Clearly)

No.	Name	Address	E-mail
1	GREGORY STRUPCZEWSKI	309 HIGHLAND RD.	GSTRUP@YAHOO.COM
2	Michael Shechtman & Robert Lee	1133 Coventry Rd	bestguy@comcast.net
3	Richard Smeyne	534 Elkins Ave #9	richardsmeyne@att.net
4	Cecilia Goldberg	300 Croyden Rd	Cgoldberg3@icloud.com
5	Dennis Biemk	1104 Orleans	
6	Ellen Einhorn	1129 Coventry Rd	2easytalker2@gmail.com
7	Rita Khadijah Bey	1126 Coventry Rd	
8	JAMES McWilliams	1110 COVENTRY AVE	JMCLWPHTOTO@AOL.COM
9	Peter Yun	7550 Coventry Ave	
10	Deviselamm	8109 FAIRVIEW	G4PSYC#T71@GMAIL.COM
11	Beth Solomon	1119 Coventry Ave	Beth.Solomon@sap.com
12	Mario DeSardo		
13	Margaret Griffin	419 Lodges Ln SP	
14	Staci Ingraham West	610 Central Ave.	stacirwest@gmail.com
15	THOM ESKEN	7423 BARCLAY ROAD	V2E15439Y@Verizon.net
16	J. Falcon	1118 COVENTRY RD.	JANFLON@YAHOO.COM
17	Liz Karras		
18	Dana Burnley	7649 Front Street	
19			
20			
21			
22			