

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** for March 2022 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 Marshal, and Kenneth Hellendall, Director of EMS and Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mr. Brockington called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 7:32 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 January 2021.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt asked why retail thefts tripled since last January and Chief Slavin said more people are out and about than at this time last year, and the Police are being called to the stores more often to arrest or write reports. He noted the pandemic over the past two years dampened the numbers. Mr. Pransky asked if there is a geographic area where these incidents are happening; Chief Slavin said they are along the southwest corridor where there is easy access in and out.

Mr. Areman asked about the difference between traffic stops and speed stops. Chief Slavin said that a car could be stopped for speeding and it would also be included in the traffic stop number. Mr. Areman commended the Department on the use of the signs throughout the Township and asked how the Department is handling speeding. Chief Slavin noted that issuing speeding citations is not the primary focus of the Department, but officers are out monitoring traffic. There were manpower issues in January due to COVID, so the numbers are low. Mr. Norris noted how few of the traffic stops involve Cheltenham residents, which confirms past discussion of this Committee regarding high levels of commuter traffic through the Township and a lot of speeding as a result. Mr. Areman also appreciated the greater presence of Police around the schools, especially Glenside Elementary at the start and end times.

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

- b) **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon the motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approved a blanket purchase order for Verizon in the amount of \$11,500 for the annual cost associated with the Department's contractual use of Verizon's wireless network for the in-car modems in the patrol fleet.
- c) **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon the motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously authorized a purchase order for American Blast Systems in the amount of \$24,435 for newly issued ballistic rifle plates to all sworn personnel to replace the current stock of expired plates.

2. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

Mr. Lynch presented the Fire Report for the month of January 2022 and the Fire Board minutes from February 3, 2022.

Mr. Lynch noted there were no significant property losses or fatalities in 2021, but the department is already 40 calls ahead since January 2021. Mr. Brockington inquired about a large number of false alarms and Mr. Lynch said it was a combination of malfunctioning systems or contractors setting off alarms, malicious pulls at the High School, residential kitchen mishaps, and power related occurrences. Some of those were frequent fliers; three false alarms are allowed but after that, the

person or business is cited. Mr. Zygmund-Felt stated the Township delivered \$18,000 and three years' worth of recruiting fees owed to the fire companies, and he would like each company to share updates regarding their recruiting activity so the community knows how the money is being used.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the January 2022 report of the Fire Marshal and the February 3, 2022 Fire Board minutes.

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

Mr. Hellendall presented the EMS Operational Report for the month of February 2022 and Financial, Detail, and Statistical Reports for the month of January 2022.

Mr. Hellendall said the new ambulance ordered in 2021 still has not arrived and there is no expected delivery date. The 2022 ambulance may not be delivered until 2023 due to the manufacturing delays across the automobile industry. Mr. Hellendall thanked the Manager for allowing him to bring in an outside panel for the Captain interviews, and publicly thanked Tom Sullivan, former head of Public Safety; Tim Flannigan, past Chief of Horsham Fire Company; and a Fire Chief in from Virginia. The interviews went extremely well and he felt it was great to get outside opinions.

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

4. **Report of the EMA Coordinator**

Mr. Hellendall updated the Committee on Hurricane Ida reimbursements and said Kim Kirschner is spending a majority of her time on getting reimbursed for such expenditures. A site inspection is scheduled in two weeks to view the Police Pistol Range and damage that was done on Tookany by the flooding. If that is approved, Cheltenham will receive mitigation money in addition to money for damage. Mr. Hellendall informed the Committee of the meeting at AJ Synagogue and meeting with the boards of all the Synagogues and any of the Jewish Schools in the Township, letting them know what the Township can offer regarding security screenings. This was a joint meeting between Emergency Management and the Police Department. He also noted that many of the Synagogues have armed security guards and the plan is for them to notify the Police Department and Emergency Management any time they hire armed security guards.

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

5. **Update on the PennDot Traffic Study**

Mr. Zienkowski reviewed the PennDOT Traffic Study and Fatal Accident on Greenwood PowerPoint that was presented at the Traffic Calming Committee on March 3, 2022. The presentation can be found on the Township Website under: *Departments & Services → Projects, Plans and Studies → Traffic Calming Studies*. The full study is expected within the next two to three weeks, and after that, a Town Hall meeting will be held to go over the findings with the public. The recommendations within the study will need to be prioritized for short, mid, and long term goals, and budgeting will need to be taken into consideration. Mr. Zienkowski thanked Mr. Pransky, Mr. Brockington, the State Representatives, and the residents for taking an active role in moving this forward. Mr. Zienkowski updated the Committee on the yard signs to slow traffic and showed a sample of one. He said this will be posted on the website and residents can send in their own suggestions before Wednesday, March 16. Mr. Holland liked the concept and asked that everyone remember that it's just a sign, so we shouldn't take too long on the design, but rather get them placed in appropriate locations fast.

6. **Old Business:** None.

7. **New Business:**

- a) Mr. Clewell and Mr. Zienkowski discussed a broken pipe under the bridge on Limekiln Pike between Wawa and KFC. Mr. Clewell has been back and forth with PennDOT for three years and the responsibility for ownership of the pipe is bouncing between PennDOT, Philadelphia and Wyngate Townhomes. It is believed the pipe begins under Cedarbrook Mall or on the Philadelphia side and ends under Rt. 309 or Ogontz Ave. The deterioration of the pipe is increasing rapidly to where it is possibly undermining the integrity of the bridge. Mr. Holland and Ms. Rappoport stated a letter to the State Representatives needs to be drafted by the Solicitor and sent to PennDOT stating the Township's concerns and include any documentation over the past three years.

8. **Citizens Forum:**

Theresa Camerota – raised the following questions/statements on a few topics discussed: (1) Was the broken pipe related to the incident with last year's storm where a car floated away? (2) When will the potholes on Church Road between Rices Mill Rd & Greenwood Avenue be repaired? (3) Will there be room for more designs on the traffic yard signs? To this item, Mr. Norris stated to have all designs to the Township Manager before Wednesday March 16. (4) The Environmental Conference hosted by Rep. Nelson is being held Thursday March 10 from 1-4 p.m. and they will be discussing electric vehicle charging stations, and (5) Will there be an open discussion regarding open spaces?

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Brockington, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

per Eileen Wass