

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** for May 2022 was held tonight via web-conference, Chairman Brockington presiding. Members present were Commissioners Areman, Holland, Rappoport, Pransky, and Ex-Officio member Norris. Not present: Zygmund-Felt.

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. Brockington called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 7:35 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 March 2022.

Mr. Areman commented there were no speeding violations for March and said it is a common complaint from residents and is important to enforce drivers violating the speed limits.

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

- b) Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously authorized a purchase order for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania State Police) in the amount of \$5,202 for the annual recurring data circuit lease and equipment costs for CLEAN access.

Mr. Norris and Mr. Brockington asked for a little background, if all Police agencies use this program, and if the cost goes up annually. Chief Slavin explained the CLEAN circuit provides sworn personnel with direct access to critical law enforcement sensitive information and intelligence. He would find out if all agencies use CLEAN and if the cost goes up annually and report back to the Board.

- c) **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 285, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 285-43, to add Handicap parking in front of 471 Valley Road, Melrose Park PA.
- d) **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize advertisement of its intention to consider the adoption of the aforementioned Ordinance amending Chapter 285, Vehicles and Traffic.

2. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

- a) Mr. Lynch presented the fire report for the month of March 2022 and the Fire Board minutes from April 7, 2022.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the March 2022 report of the Fire Marshal and the April 7, 2022 Fire Board minutes.

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

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

Mr. Hellendall said COVID-19 cases are rising, with three (3) employees out sick and urged everyone to use caution. Mr. Norris said the Public Affairs Committee would be discussing extending the Township meetings via Zoom until September.

- a) **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously authorized a purchase order for Stryker in the amount of \$21,899 to install Power Load auto-lifters on the new ambulance.

Mr. Hellendall explained the Power Load auto-lifters make lifting the litter in and out of the ambulance physically easier on the EMS staff, reducing back injuries. By having it installed after obtaining the new ambulance, they were able to take advantage of trading in the old one, saving about \$3,500 and Captain Boyle was able to get the quote down a little more bringing the total cost in savings to around \$5,000. Ms. Rappoport asked if we were locked into Stryker or could we shop around. Mr. Hellendall said Stryker came out with the Power Lifter about 6-7 years ago and all the brackets, mounts, etc. are only compatible with Stryker. Most ambulances are equipped with Stryker.

4. **Report of the EMA Director**

Mr. Hellendall said Ms. Kirschner is working hard on recouping Hurricane Ida costs and should have an amount in a month or so. He expects it to be a significant recovery.

Mr. Hellendall shared information on the sink hole on Chelton Hills Road and said there was great cooperation between Police & Public Works. He also let everyone know that residents were moving barriers to get a closer look which is extremely dangerous. Social media updates and warnings have been posted and Police are patrolling around the sink hole. Mr. Pransky commended Township staff, Public Works and Police on everything they have done. He warned residents this is not a tourist attraction and to stay away.

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

5. **Old Business** – None.

6. **New Business:**

- a) Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously authorized a purchase order for Garden State Highway Products, Inc. in the amount of \$12,483.88 for the purchase of three (3) sets of speed cushions for Valley Road and the additional cost of \$2,000 to have Public Works install warning signs at each speed cushion.

The Committee did not question the fact that speeding is a concern in the Township; however, it discussed whether speed cushions were the appropriate deterrent, their costs, whether other streets will warrant them. Chief Slavin explained this was approved by the Traffic Calming Committee after a resident followed the procedure and petitioned to have these installed. He said this is a test case and the Department will do ongoing studies to see if this solution works. At this time, Valley Road is the only street that petitioned for speed cushions. Originally, five sets of speed cushions were recommended, but the Committee agreed on three. Mr. Holland said he would like to see the effectiveness of the speed cushions on Valley before installing in another location.

- b) Mr. Lynch presented a draft of an Ordinance regarding the implementation of a rental licensing and inspection program. The purpose of the ordinance is to ensure safety inspections every three years on all rental properties within the Township. This ordinance will also help build a database to make sure all rental properties are identified, licensed and registered with the Township. The estimated start date would be January 2023. There was significant discussion surrounding the

definitions, concerns from the public, including AirBnBs as a rental property, and giving fair notice to landlords as well as making sure all aspects of the program is legal. The larger complexes were surprised at first but understood the need for this program and are looking forward to working with the Township. Mr. Lynch said this is a first draft and asked for all comments to be emailed to him and he would review with the Township Solicitor and bring back to the Committee for approval at a later date.

- c) Mr. Brockington asked Chief Slavin to give an update on the Breaking Bread event on May 23, 2022. Chief Slavin said this is a community driven initiative that was developed by two residents to bring members of the Black and Brown community and Police together over a meal to get to know one another meaningfully and personally. The event is open to everyone, but will be limited in number due to space limitations at Curtis Hall and COVID restrictions. Mr. Brockington asked if this was shared with the School Superintendent because he wants to make sure an event like this is touching the younger generation in order to build trust between them and Police, and wants them to know they are encouraged to attend. Chief said the event has been shared on social media and he will also reach out to the Superintendent to discuss further. Chief stated this is the start of hopefully many events to get to know each other personally, have hard conversations, and will incorporate Mr. Brockington's suggestion on inviting young people.
- d) Mr. Zienkowski discussed the 60-foot deep sinkhole on Cheltenham Hills Drive and said the Township is investigating the root cause and who is responsible for repairs. He gave a detailed description of what is underground and showed some photos. If there is an issue with the culvert then the Township is estimating repairs in the seven figure range and that it will not be a quick and easy repair. There are two high pressure gas lines running underneath and all emergency management agencies are on alert to monitor. PECO felt confident there is no threat of any gas issues at this time. Mr. Clewell detailed his investigation of the culvert, noting various areas of damage. Sewer Interceptor B flows about 12 feet under the culvert. Aqua will perform an inspection early Thursday to determine the condition.

Mr. Zienkowski commended all the teams who responded quickly and notified necessary parties. Mr. Hellendall reiterated that people cannot be near the sinkhole as they are unpredictable. Mr. Pransky expressed concerns and asked if this is the tip of the iceberg based on the age of Township and age of the pipes, some nearly 150 years old. He asked if the Township can obtain federal government assistance. Mr. Zienkowski said there is another area of concern along this culvert that may involve other properties and further discussion with the Board will be needed after some investigation. Mr. Clewell addressed Mr. Pransky's comment by saying they are looking at another culvert where residents have raised concerns and an inspection is needed but it is an open floor, 400 yards long and not able to walk through safely.

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 9:12 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

per Eileen Wass