

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** for June 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; Dan Farley, Lieutenant Police Department; 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 7:46 p.m.

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

- a) Lieutenant Farley reviewed the Police Clearance and Juvenile Clearance Reports for the month of April 2022.

Mr. Areman commented there were only four speeding violations for April, reiterating that speeding is a common complaint from residents and is important to enforce drivers violating the speed limits. Lt. Farley said the Department recently held a speed detail and would set up another one. Mr. Areman understands there is a delay with the numbers on the reports. Ms. Rappoport noted accidents with injuries are up from last year and said this may be because of not enforcing speeding. Mr. Zygmund-Felt asked if retail theft is up three times in 2022 vs. 2021 because of greater scrutiny or more people stealing. Lt. Farley said it is a combination of both. Mr. Zygmund-Felt complimented the joint response by Police, Fire & EMS for a traffic accident that occurred on Tookany Parkway that ended in a bench warrant arrest of one of the people involved. Mr. Areman asked if parking meters were being enforced and Lt. Farley stated a directive was issued some time ago to begin enforcing again.

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

- b) Upon the motion of Mr. Brockington, the Committee unanimously authorized a purchase order for East coast K9 LLC in the amount of \$4,600 for the purchase of K9 Rusty, a 2 year old dual purpose Belgian Malinois. This cost is fully funded by community donations.

Mr. Pransky asked why it is called dual purpose. Lt. Farley stated that K9 Rusty has been trained in patrol work and will also be trained in bomb detection. Mr. Pransky asked if drug detection is separate and Lt. Farley said some of the other K9s handle drug detection.

- c) Upon the motion of Mr. Brockington, the Committee unanimously authorized a purchase order for Penn Vet Working Dog Center in the amount of \$4,704 for Basic Handler Patrol School. This cost is fully funded by community donations.
- d) Upon the motion of Mr. Brockington, the Committee authorized a purchase order for Montgomery County Community College in the amount of \$5,995 for Police Academy training for James Magee from July 5, 2022 to December 12, 2022.
- e) Upon the motion of Mr. Brockington, the Committee unanimously approved a blanket purchase order for McDonald Uniform Company, Inc. in the amount of \$9,000.

2. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

- a) Mr. Lynch presented the fire report for the month of April 2022 and the Fire Board minutes from May 5, 2022.

Ms. Rappoport noted the chart that was added to the reports was very helpful and would like to see the same for response times for the Township's own companies. Mr. Brockington asked if there was any success in having firefighters volunteer for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in the Village.

Mr. Lynch said no, the volunteer fire service is facing difficulties and the East Cheltenham Facebook page put out a post asking for volunteers but he does not believe it will be successful.

This led to a discussion about volunteer firefighters in general and the difficulties they are facing in recruiting. This difficulty is not just in Cheltenham, but all over the country. The companies are looking at different and unique ways to draw in new members. Mr. Areman requested the Township Manager and other staff members provide the Board with a menu of ideas to help recruit and retain volunteers. Ms. Rappoport wanted people to understand this has been a problem for years and a line has been included in the budget for recruitment. Mr. Lynch mentioned that becoming a volunteer firefighter is a huge commitment, requiring 188 hours to train.

Mr. Lynch updated the Committee on the Rental Inspection program and said he took all feedback from the Committee and had a conversation with the Solicitor who is making changes to the Ordinance, which will be presented at next month's meeting.

Upon the motion of Mr. Brockington, the Committee unanimously received the April 2022 report of the Fire Marshal and the May 5, 2022 Fire Board minutes.

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

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

Mr. Hellendall said the new ambulance is in service and for the first time in a long time, all four ambulances are in service. He also said one new Paramedic was hired and there is a delay receiving background check information from Texas for the other Paramedic they are looking to hire. As soon as those records are received, the Paramedic will begin in his new position.

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

4. **Report of the EMA Director**

Mr. Hellendall updated the Committee on COVID and said this area is doing well again and all outdoor events are okay to be held and indoor events are being looked at individually. He still recommends keeping public meetings virtual until September and will reevaluate at that time. Mr. Holland asked if the Township was stockpiling supplies as we head through the summer and into the fall. Mr. Hellendall stated that while there are increased cases, we are nearing the endemic stage where COVID is becoming similar to the flu. He reminded everyone that the numbers are only showing those who are taking the PCR test and not at home kits, so they may be higher than reported.

Mr. Holland asked if there were any concerns or precautions being taken regarding monkeypox. Mr. Hellendall said as of today, no precautions are needed and the CDC does not expect it to be an epidemic.

Mr. Hellendall complimented Ms. Kirschner for her efforts in getting the Township reimbursed by FEMA for overtime incurred during Hurricane Ida. He also noted huge success on presenting the Run-Hide-Fight training in local schools as well as most of the Township Staff.

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

5. **Old Business** – None.

6. **New Business**

- a) Ms. Rappoport let everyone know the slow down traffic signs are now available free of charge at the Township Building. Mr. Brockington asked if it would be okay to put these signs on Township property. Mr. Zienkowski said that these signs are okay to put on Township property.
- b) Mr. Holland asked about the pool party that occurred over the weekend near Curtis Park. Mr. Zienkowski said it will be discussed at Public Affairs Committee meeting following Public Safety.

7. **Citizens Forum:**

*Theresa Camerota* asked how many signs are available and if the limit per person can be adjusted. Mr. Zienkowski said there are a lot of signs and yes, they can adjust the number given out at one time. Ms. Camerota stated she is already getting a response to one of the signs by people revving their engines as they drive by. Mr. Zienkowski offered to have signs dropped off to anyone who is unable to get to the Township Building.

*Rhonda Isser* asked if the Township had any relationship with Moxie Pest Control because they and another company are going door-to-door offering their services and saying they are representing the Township. Mr. Areman said the Township does not have a relationship with any pest control company and if someone is stating that to call 9-1-1. Ms. Pearson let everyone know that Moxie Pest Control has a solicitation permit and she contacted them and told them if they are saying they have a relationship with the Township, their permit to solicit will be removed. She also let everyone know to call the Township if they want to be placed on the Do Not Solicit List. The list is given to anyone who receives a permit to solicit. Mr. Brockington asked if the permit is able to be pulled if they are not doing what they are supposed to do. Mr. Zienkowski said they can pull the permit if a resident can verify and document this is indeed happening. Ms. Isser said she would send the email of the person who is saying this is happening.

*Hank Unger* thanked the Police Department for their response during the pool party that took place on Sunday evening.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Brockington, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

per Eileen Wass