

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** for December 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 7:41 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 October 2021.

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

- B. **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, "Easton Rd (V) No Parking Between Signs; west side 110' south of SR309 to 650' south of SR309" at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 19, 2022.

Mr. Areman clarified this was the stretch of Easton Road near the off ramp of 309 south along Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

- C. **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 October 2021 and the minutes of the Fire Board Meeting from November 4, 2021.

Mr. Lynch noted the State of Pennsylvania will be adopting all of the 2018 International Construction Codes (ICC) on February 14, 2022. Cheltenham has currently adopted and uses the 2006 edition. Mr. Lynch will present the updated ICC to the Public Safety Committee in February to consider its adoption and implementation. He noted that the Residential and Fire Codes have stayed the same and there are some minor changes to the Mechanical Codes.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the October 2021 report of the Fire Marshal and the minutes of the Fire Board Meeting from November 4, 2021.

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

- A. Mr. Hellendall presented the EMS Operational Report for the month of November 2021 and Financial, Detail, and Statistical reports for the month of October 2021.

Mr. Hellendall stated that all hospitals are full and consistently diverting ambulances except for traumas and childbirth, mainly due to the flu and the resurgence of COVID. The County will determine which hospitals EMS can go to. He asked the Commissioners keep this in mind in case they receive complaints from residents.

Mr. Hellendall also said that ambulance squads are experiencing a major staffing crisis across the country, especially in Pennsylvania. If there were not two Paramedics out with injuries, EMS would have a full staff. Mr. Hellendall said that now more than ever, it is important for Cheltenham to maintain its own EMS so the Township can continue to provide excellent response rates. This past weekend, Emergency Medical Services outside the Township did not have Paramedics, so Cheltenham covered the big calls. He noted that there will be significant changes in 2022, with possible funding coming from the State and County.

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

4. **Report of the EMA Director**

- A. Mr. Hellendall informed the Committee that Ms. Kirschner and others have been working on grants for the 2020 Civil Unrest Events and Hurricane Ida. The Township has received \$136,000 for the Civil Unrest, enabling the Township to recover all Police overtime costs. Ms. Kirschner is currently working with various departments on Hurricane Ida expenses and the Township is expected to recover all funds, including the stream washout along Tookany Creek Parkway and the damage to the Police gun range. Lower Providence will be paying the Township directly for services.

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

5. **Old Business**

- A. Discussion on Zoning Hearing Board Appeal #21-3687, TKO Installations, Inc. for 2401 Cheltenham Avenue (Greenleaf at Cheltenham Mall) to construct a drive-up ATM kiosk.

Augusta O'Neill and Matthew McHugh, Attorneys, spoke about the application presented to the Zoning Hearing Board and concerns regarding safety. Ms. O'Neill had spoken with Acting Chief Slavin before the first meeting and stated there were no particular safety risks posed by the drive-thru ATM as opposed to any other traditional ATM. There is already a drive-thru ATM in the Township at the Cedarbrook Shopping Center. Acting Chief Slavin interjected that when they spoke the first time, it was very general and there were no specifics. Prior to the second call with Ms. O'Neill, Acting Chief Slavin received a copy of the application and noted he did have concerns about safety given its proximity to Philadelphia and its location with respect to the sidewalk because of foot traffic.

Tom Reilly, TKO Installations, spoke about the design and safety of the kiosk, stating it would be a controlled environment with lighting, cameras recording the customers and the vehicle license plates, and good visibility where customers can see around the kiosk. Chase Bank will monitor the cameras and contact 911 if there is an issue.

Mr. Zienkowski brought up concerns regarding large truck parking in that area blocking line of sight. He also noted that the rendering presented last week was a stock drawing of the area and did not provide sufficient information about the site allow for sufficient review.

Ms. O'Neill stated the shopping center is being sold and would like the Township to give the new owner the opportunity to prove that it can improve conditions at the shopping center. Mr. Holland suggested that he, Ms. O'Neill, Chief Slavin, and Mr. Zienkowski meet after the sale goes through to discuss safety concerns, then bring this back to the Zoning Hearing Board for another review.

Upon the motion of Mr. Brockington, the Committee with a 6-0-1 vote, recommended the applicant continue the approval process and engage in conversations with the Acting Police

Chief, Township Manager and Commissioner Baron Holland to work on solutions. (Ayes: Brockington, Holland, Zygmund-Felt, Areman, Pransky, Rappoport; Abstained: Norris)

B. Mr. Areman thanked Acting Chief Slavin and the Department on their continued efforts in traffic calming by utilizing digital signs and digital radar signs; he has received good feedback from residents. Mr. Zygmund-Felt stated that the signs around the schools are having a significant impact and appreciates them being installed to help protect school children. Acting Chief Slavin thanked the Board and said to let the Department know if any of them are interested in ride-alongs.

6. **New Business:** None

7. **Citizens Forum**

Theresa Camerota: inquired if there was an update on the PennDOT traffic study. Mr. Zienkowski said there has been no update, but said PennDOT will reach out when it has been completed and make their presentation in front of this Committee. Ms. Camerota sent an email to the Township Manager and Commissioners about traffic calming measures being done in Newtown Square, Delaware County. She also noted there are large trucks speeding on Church Road late at night and Acting Chief Slavin said he will have his Officers keep an eye open for late night speeding.

Emily Steinberg: commented on traffic being diverted off main streets into neighborhoods because of Waze and other travel applications. Mr. Holland clarified that it may not be the apps, but that residents and non-residents who know the area are cutting through neighborhoods to avoid traffic. Ms. Steinberg suggested looking into the Biden Infrastructure Plan and conducting a traffic study. Mr. Norris suggested this be moved to the Traffic Calming Committee and Ms. Steinberg believes it is a public safety matter and that the Traffic Calming Committee does not deal with state roads. Mr. Zienkowski suggested having a traffic engineer get involved to develop an alternative to give to PennDOT. Ms. Camerota stated that Delaware County has a traffic calming committee that strategizes how to get around towns and has sent information to the Commissioners.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Brockington, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

per Eileen Wass