

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Chairman Daniel B. Norris, presiding. Members present were Commissioners Brockington, Holland, Rappoport and Sharkey. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Commissioner Simon.

Staff present were Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; John Frye, Police Chief; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshall; Kenneth Hellendall, Director of Emergency Medical Services; and Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Norris announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss Township business which if conducted in public would violate the attorney client privilege. Also discussed was pending litigation in the Commonwealth Court.

Mr. Norris called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 7:45 p.m.

1. **Report of the Police Chief**

Chief Frye reviewed the Police Clearance and Juvenile Clearance Reports for the month of May 2017.

Mr. Norris commented on the statistical comparison that armed robberies are up considerably from last year, however burglaries were down. There was discussion between Mr. Norris and Chief Frye about the inference of an implied weapon vs. an actual weapon and how implied weapon robberies are categorized as armed robberies. Chief Frye provided an explanation of a recent incident that happened in a section of the Township. Mr. Norris and Chief Frye discussed the increase in assaults year-to-date. There was a discussion about the difference between Simple Assault and Aggravated Assault; Simple Assault being no injuries while Aggravated Assault is with serious injuries. Mr. Norris discussed the Parking and Motor Vehicle Violations noting a significant increase in speeding tickets being written throughout the Township. Chief Frye stated they are up 550% from last year. Chief Frye stated that the Parking Tickets are up from the Patrol Division as well as the Parking Enforcement Person, over 200 from last year. Additionally, Chief Frye stated traffic stops have increased 14%.

Mr. Sharkey and Chief Frye had a discussion about the parking meters and enforcement in the commercial enhancement districts within the Township. Mr. Simon noted that monies received for traffic citations are filtered to the state, where monies received from parking violations come to the Township.

Mr. Holland asked if there have been any repeat violations with noise from parties since the incidents of the previous year on Serpentine Lane. Chief Frye stated there was one incident on June 24, 2017 on the 1200 block of Ashbourne Road; the police responded twice in one evening, the resident was advised of the noise and zoning ordinances. He stated that was the only incident he was aware of so far this year.

Mr. Norris invited Mitch Zygmund-Felt of Carter Lane to speak. Mr. Zygmund-Felt asked Chief Frye if there was additional traffic calming efforts that could be implemented in the area of Kingston Road, Wessel Way and Wetherill Road due safety concerns regarding the children's day camp being held on the field at Elkins Park School. There is a heavier traffic flow in that area due to PennDOT's road closure for it's bridge replacement project on New Second Street. There was a discussion about potential solutions. Chief Frye stated he would look into new measures. The bridge is slated to be finished on or about Labor Day 2017.

Mr. Sharkey reiterated about parking tickets with regard to commercial districts. He stated he realized there is a balance between revenue and the need to encourage individuals shopping in the commercial districts. He again requested that the meter person make herself well-known in the commercial districts before writing parking tickets.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Holland, the Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Commissioners recognize retiring Officer Michael Friend, Officer Christopher Poirier and Detective Harry Hall at its regularly-scheduled meeting on July 19, 2017.

Chief Frye announced the PAL event scheduled for July 22, 2017 has been canceled. He stated the next event is a joint event with Abington PAL to attend a Philadelphia Souls Arena Football Game on August 5, 2017.

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

2. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

Mr. O'Neill reviewed the report for the month of May 2017. He stated that the Township is having a typical year.

Mr. Norris noted the Commissioners had received the State's compliance audit for fiscal year January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 for the Glenside Fire Company No. 1.

There was a discussion about the State Fire Relief Fund and how funds are allocated. Mr. O'Neill stated that funds from the Relief Fund must be equally distributed among all five fire companies; it is restricted in its use for safety or relief for fire company members such as buying insurance for members and safety equipment. Paid fire departments are not eligible for this funding, it is only for volunteer fire services. The funds are allocated from the state based on population and assessment.

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Fire Marshal.

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

Mr. Hellendall reviewed the Emergency Medical Services report for the month of June 2017.

Mr. Hellendall stated there is a bill in the State House regarding collection of old debt. He asked if the Committee keep in mind that if passed there would be measures in place for the uncollectable debt incurred by EMS which is currently at approximately \$612,000.

Mr. Norris invited Mr. Mitch Zygmund-Felt of Carter Lane to speak. Mr. Zygmund-Felt and Mr. Hellendall had a discussion about the current uncollected debt. Mr. Hellendall stated that many measures have been in place to collect the debt up to and including placing court ordered liens on properties owned by those not paying. He stated it was not cost effective due to

manpower hours invested in the process of getting the liens and court costs to continue that practice. Mr. Hellendall stated that Cheltenham has a 10% higher rate in the industry for collecting debt.

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

Mr. Hellendall reviewed the Emergency Management Report for the month of June 2017.

Mr. Simon inquired about the barricade truck. There was discussion with Mr. Hellendall with regard to the implementation of the barricade truck saving time when police officers or fire department personnel are on a scene blocking roadways before a tree down or wires down can be addressed. The barricade truck will put police and fire resources back in service quicker prior to Public Works personnel arriving to address such issues.

Upon motion of Mr. Brockington, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Emergency Medical Services and the Report of the Emergency Management Coordinator.

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

Mr. Havir stated the Township received notification from the County Commissioners that through the Department of Public Safety, a consulting firm has been hired to conduct a 20 year strategy plan to address the delivery of fire services throughout the County. There would be community surveys and questionnaires forthcoming. (See attached)

5. **Old Business:**

Mr. Brockington thanked the Police Department for their attendance at his Town Hall meeting on June 30, 2017 as well as the East Cheltenham 4th of July parade.

7. **New Business:** None.

8. **Citizens' Forum:** None.

9. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Norris, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

as per Kathryn Gallagher



RECEIVED

JUL 10 2017

CHELtenham TOWNSHIP

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH
CHAIR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COURTHOUSE
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July 10, 2017

Dear Municipal Elected Officials:

The volunteer fire services in Montgomery County, and throughout the Commonwealth, are facing a critical staffing shortage. In Pennsylvania, Act 7 of 2008 places the responsibility for Fire and EMS protection on local governments. We have been asked by some municipal officials and fire chiefs to help study the impacts of this situation and propose a strategy for the future.

Accordingly, the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety is undertaking a project to help us prepare for the fire service delivery system in the county over the next 20 years. This project will involve the direct input of Montgomery County volunteer and career emergency service representatives as well as municipal officials.

This strategic planning project's emphasis is to assure that we can provide emergency response capabilities to our county in a professional, reliable, and cost-effective fashion. It is the assumption that volunteers will be a viable force to accomplish this for the foreseeable future and part of the assessment is to determine what is required to make this a reality.

Montgomery County has contracted with a firm, VFIS, who will conduct this project to help analyze the current and future system needs and capabilities. This firm has conducted similar assessments in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States. Their understanding of the fire service delivery models throughout our state and the country will enable us to measure ourselves against comparable delivery systems. This will enhance our effective performance while identifying areas we can improve on. In addition, the Insurance Services Office will be contacted to determine their perspective on global county-wide areas for municipal class rating improvement.

The consulting team will utilize a combination of meetings to obtain input, questionnaires to each emergency response agency, a community survey, and various follow-up techniques to obtain information necessary to complete the project. Municipal elected and appointed officials, in order to determine your concerns and suggestions, will be included in surveys and meetings with your professional associations. This will also give your constituents an opportunity to comment on the emergency services they seek over the next decade and beyond.

We respect and value the work of the volunteer and career staffs that provide excellent service throughout the county. With this study, the county hopes to assist you in determining the resources required to ensure that a timely, efficient and effective response will continue to occur when needed.

We hope that you will share your expertise, experience and ideas so that we can produce a product that will be of value to you and your municipality in planning for the future.

Sincerely,



Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH
Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

cc: Tom Sullivan, Director, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety
All County Municipal Managers

cc: Public Safety Committee
Joe O'Neill

> Item # 5
on 7-12-17
Public Safety Committee
Agenda
Bryon



Meeting Attendance Sheet



Public Safety 7:30 PM
Public Affairs 7:45 PM
Finance Committee 8:00 PM

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Cheltenham Township Administration Building
8230 Old York Road | Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

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