

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Commissioner J. Andrew Sharkey, Chair, presiding. Members present were Commissioners Norris, Rappoport, and Simon.

Staff present included: John J. Norris, Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshall; Kenneth Hellendall, EMS Director; Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager; Henry Sekawungu, Director of Planning/Zoning; and Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager. Also present was Joseph Bagley, Esq., Solicitor. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Sharkey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Under the Report of the Police Chief, Chief Norris reviewed the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of January 2015. Mr. Sharkey asked about the uptick retail theft arrests and whether it was a result of recent store policies. Chief Norris responded that it was, not because there are actually more retail theft cases.

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously accepted the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of January 2015.

2. Fire Marshall O'Neill reported that it had been a busy month for the Fire Companies. Mr. Sharkey offered his thanks to both the La Mott and Glenside Fire Companies for their efforts.

Upon motion of Mr. Simon, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the Fire Marshal for the month of January 2015.

3. Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the EMS Director for the month of January 2015.

4. Under the Report of the Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Hellendall reported that the process of purchasing and demolishing the four homes on Bickley Road as part of the PEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for properties located in flood zones was proceeding. He also stated that a second round of funding for the program has also been approved. Mr. Hellendall explained that these properties will be returned to open space and cannot have any structures or other impervious surfaces added to them. Ms. Rappoport asked if the Township would be able to plant trees on the properties, since the Township is a Tree City and trees in riparian corridors are good for the health of a stream. Mr. Simon suggested the Township should contact PEMA to find out what the Township could do on these properties.

Upon the motion of Mr. Simon, the Committee unanimously accepted the report of the Emergency Management Coordinator for the month of February 2015.

5. Under the Report of the Township Manager, Mr. Havir reported that the Township participates in the Montgomery County Consortium's road salt bid. After last year's

salt shortage, the Consortium added a clause in the new contract stating that should the contractor fail to deliver salt within a period of 72 hours, a municipality may go to another vendor and back charge the additional cost of the salt and shipping charges to the vendor. Morton Salt, Inc. was awarded the bid has been unable to fulfill the recent request for delivery since the second week of February. Mr. Havir notified Morton Salt of this stipulation and reached out to Oceanport in Claymont, Delaware and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to make sure salt is delivered and available for the impending storms. In order to receive salt from the Turnpike Commission, Mr. Havir declared a local state of emergency and submitted paperwork to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for review and consideration. Mr. Havir asked the Committee for a consensus on the declaration of emergency.

Mr. Sharkey asked that this topic be added to the Public Works Committee agenda next week for further discussion.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve the Township Manager's actions to declare local state of emergency for the purposes of procuring road salt.

6. Old Business – None.

7. New Business. Fire Department presentation on the cost of replacing radios by 2019 for compliance with the new County Communications System. Mr. Joseph Stuckert, Chief of the Glenside Fire Company, discussed the County's efforts to upgrade its communications systems and the requirement of all emergency responders to purchase new radios. He explained that the Fire Companies have made significant efforts to apply for grant funding to help purchase the radios by 2019. With the considerable expense (approximately \$727,000) to upgrade the radios and other large expenditures required by the Fire Companies over the next few years, Mr. Stuckert made a request to the Committee to help fund the purchase of the radios. Mr. Stuckert also advised the Committee that the County was increasing the price by \$300 per radio for all emergency services, despite the fact that pricing was supposed to be fixed.

Mr. Norris and Ms. Rappoport asked how the number of radios needed was calculated and whether every fire fighter needed a radio with access to the County System. Mr. Stuckert responded that the number of radios was determined by the number of riding positions on an apparatus and that connection to the County radio offers an extra measure of safety in the event of a trapped fire fighter and enables communications with other fire companies when they assist. Members of the Committee inquired about other grant opportunities and whether the old radios will be saleable. Mr. Stuckert responded that since Cheltenham fire companies received a FEMA grant for the purchase of radios in the past 15 years, it is highly unlikely that they will be funded again. They are working with an experienced grant writer who can point them in the direction of other, smaller grants. These grants cannot be used as matches for other similar grants. These grants are very competitive since there is a large pool of municipalities looking for assistance in reducing the cost of purchasing the radios. The current radios can be sold, but for a small price.

The Committee discussed the advantages of purchasing radios now, before the prices increase again, or waiting until 2019. Ms. Rappoport asked how long before communities are asked to purchase new radios for a new system. Mr. Stuckert responded that the life expectancy of a system is 15-20 years.

No action was taken on the fire companies' request at this time. Mr. Sharkey suggested staff review the request and make a recommendation at a later date.

8. Citizens' Forum – None.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Norris, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

as per Alyson Elliott

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – 7:30 p.m.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 7:45 p.m.
BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE -8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4, 2015
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST

(Please print clearly)

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE OR E-MAIL
Chief J. J. Mulligan	7600 PEWSEE AVE	DEPUTYCHIEF2@gmail.com
S Steaks		
BRAD PRANSKY	C/	
Stephanie Eller	504 Plymouth Road, Glenside	215-317-2798
Martin Schmid	631 Twickenham Rd.	215-886-8649
Stephanie Dalosta	2901 W. Cheltenham	215-885-2585
Erin Thompson	-	ethompson@weknow
Stephanie J. ...		
Margaret Griffer		247-259-7772
Helene To MacDonald	316 Bickley Rd. Glenside	215 586 0773