

July 2, 2014
Curtis Hall

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Commissioner J. Andrew Sharkey, Chairman, presiding. Members present were Commissioners Haywood, McKeown, Norris, Rappoport, and Simon. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Portner.

Staff present were Kenneth Hellendall, Emergency Management Coordinator; John J. Norris, Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; Henry Sekawungu, Planning and Zoning Director; and Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager. Also present was Joseph M. Bagley, Esq., Township Solicitor. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Sharkey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He announced that the Commissioners held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters, and an Executive Session will be held after this evening's meetings to discuss potential litigation.

1. Chief Norris reviewed the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of May, 2014.

2. Chief Norris reviewed a proposed Resolution urging support of legislation that is in the State Senate and House that would allow the use of radar by local municipalities. Said legislation is supported by the Pennsylvania Police Chiefs Association. He reviewed the current restrictions on local police and the positive aspects in the use of radar, including the time saving and financial savings. Chief Norris asked that if the Resolution is adopted, that it be sent to the Township's state representatives.

Mr. Norris asked about the disbursement of revenue from speeding tickets. Chief Norris stated that most of the revenue from speeding tickets goes to the state. Last year, the Township's share of all speeding tickets was \$29,000.

Mr. Sharkey noted that the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners supports said legislation.

Ms. Rappoport suggested that support for said legislation be put on the Police Department's Facebook page. The Committee unanimously agreed.

3. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a Resolution supporting Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1340 and House Bill 1273 enabling municipal Police Departments to use the same motor vehicle speed timing equipment as the Pennsylvania State Police (see attached).

4. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously accepted the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of May, 2014.

5. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the Fire Marshal for the month of May, 2014.

Mr. Simon questioned if there were food trucks in the Township. Mr. O'Neill reported that to the best of his knowledge, there were no such trucks.

Mr. Haywood asked for an update on the Fire Companies' Long Range Plan. Mr. O'Neill responded that a final plan should be available by September 2014 and will be presented to the Committee. Over the course of the summer, there are several meetings scheduled by the Fire Companies.

Mr. Simon complimented how the Fire Companies' provided information about public safety and personal use of fireworks on their website. Mr. Sharkey noted that residents are concerned about the use of fireworks and the issuance of tent permits, and he suggested that the Township might consider strengthening its permit application in this respect.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the EMS Director for the month of May, 2014.

7. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the Emergency Management Coordinator for the month of June, 2014.

8. Under Old Business – None.

9. Under New Business: Mr. Sharkey asked that Staff provide an update at a future Committee meeting on the purchase of new radio needs for the Police, Fire and EMS Departments in preparation for the 2015 Budget.

10. Under Citizens Forum – None.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Bryan T. Haver
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. -14

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE USE OF RADAR
BY LOCAL MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting Senate Bill 1340, introduced by Senator Randy Vulakovich (R – Allegheny/Butler), and House Bill 1272, introduced by Representative Harry Readshaw (D – Allegheny), enabling all municipal police to use the same motor vehicle speed-timing equipment as the Pennsylvania State Police; and

WHEREAS, public protection is a principal reason why municipalities are established and exist; and

WHEREAS, municipal police and the Pennsylvania State Police are statutorily authorized to protect the public primarily through the enforcement of the Crimes Code (Title 18) and Motor Vehicle Code (Title 75); and

WHEREAS, all of the tools of law enforcement available to the Pennsylvania State Police are also available to municipal police, with one notable exception, that being radar; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is the only state in the United States of America that gives its municipal police a law enforcement mandate and then prohibits them from using a common and effective piece of speed-timing equipment that the Pennsylvania State Police are permitted to use; and

WHEREAS, the inability of municipal police to use radar has resulted in uneven enforcement of the maximum speed laws across Pennsylvania, as well as contributed to Pennsylvania's distinction as the state with the third highest number of speed-related vehicle fatalities and the second highest percentage of speed-related vehicle fatalities in the country; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township on this ____ day of July, 2014, calls upon the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, and specifically, Senator LeAnna Washington and Representative Steven McCarter to support Senate Bill 1340 and House Bill 1272 which bills would enable all municipal police to use the same motor vehicle speed-timing equipment as the Pennsylvania State Police.

ADOPTED this _____ day of July, 2014.

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Harvey Portner, President

Attest: _____
Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager
And Secretary



PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST
Public Safety Committee, 7:30 p.m.
Public Affairs Committee, 7:45 p.m.
Building and Zoning Committee, 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 2, 2014
Curtis Hall

NAME (Please Print Clearly)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
John Washington	Wyncote	idonothaveone@aol.com
Philip Walden	Wyncote	pwalden@wts.edu
Kurt Ahrens	Wyncote	kfahrens@gmail.com
MARK WILSON	Westminster Seminary	mwilson@wts.com
Aleksander Miszczak	645 Ashbourne Rd	aleksandermiszczak@gmail.com
Janet Miszczak	"	"