

March 5, 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 Brian Hinson, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation; Kimberly Kirshner, Emergency Management Assistant Coordinator; Amy Montgomery, Township Engineer; John Norris, Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; Lt. John Weed, and Bryan T. Havir, 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. Chief Norris reviewed the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of January, 2014.

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

3. Mr. Sharkey commended the Fire Companies for their response to recent fires at an apartment complex in the Township. Mr. O'Neill reported that said fires were accidental and the result of cooking. He reviewed the Township's procedures for informing apartment building tenants of fire hazards.

Mr. O'Neill reported a new strategic alliance between the Ogontz and Elkins Park Fire Companies. A Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") has been reached between the two Fire Companies to share resources, personnel, officer structure, cross-training, working together in a structured environment. In response to a question from Mr. Haywood, Mr. O'Neill elaborated on the sharing of resources, sharing of command and changes in the tier of top officers, which will result in one (1) Fire Chief for both companies and one (1) Deputy Chief for both companies. Mr. O'Neill did not anticipate any issues. Each company has different expertise – Elkins Park Fire Company maintains ladder operations, and Ogontz Fire Company maintains the heavy rescue equipment. Each company will now cross train on that equipment.

Joseph Stuckert, Chief of Glenside Fire Company addressed the Committee. He reviewed the MOU and supported it as a move forward to working together to share resources and manpower, and it will result in additional manpower for each company. Mr. Stuckert reported that during this year's major snow events, Ogontz Fire Company ran 30 calls in two (2) storms even though the facility was without power; Glenside Fire Company ran 48 calls in five (5) days, and it did not have power but still met the demand for calls; 140 man hours were spent on emergency calls only; in addition to the calls, members spent their time cleaning the facility and preparing the equipment; and the facilities were used to shelter a lot of people.

Mr. McKeown asked if residents should be proactive while shoveling snow off sidewalks and driveways, and clear the area around fire hydrants? Mr. Stuckert stated that during the recent storms, this was not an issue but has been in the past.

Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the Fire Marshal for the month of February, 2014.

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

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

6. Under Report of the Township Manager: Mr. Havar announced that there will be a tour of the Emergency Operations Center for the Commissioners on Monday, March 31, 2014, at 6 p.m.

7. Under Old Business – None.

8. Under New Business – Mr. Haywood stated that there was concern from residents of Bickley Road about traffic and speeding on that street. He presented a Yahoo map of the area; reviewed the road’s parallelism to Easton Road that makes it a cut-thru for motorists; traffic from Bishop McDevitt High School students; his discussion with the Police Chief of possible traffic calming measures; making the street one-way; and request for a Stop Sign at the intersection of Bickley Road and Toxony Avenue at least on a temporary basis but does not meet PennDOT criteria.

Mr. McKeown noted that the Cheltenham Village area has similar issues, residents have requested traffic calming measures over several years, and there is always a response that any traffic changes have to meet PennDOT criteria. He felt there was a liability issue for the Township if PennDOT criteria is not met.

**Public Comment:**

Moira Rooney felt there was liability if the Township did nothing; Bickley Road has a lot of children, it is a cut-thru, there is speeding in both directions, it has an elementary school bus stop, narrow sidewalks, blind spots. She did not support making the street one-way as this would be inconvenient for residents. In response to a question from Mr. Sharkey, she stated that neighbors support a Stop Sign.

Vanessa Galati stated that warnings set up by residents were destroyed, and there is no grass barrier along the sidewalks. She felt that only residents at the top of Bickley Road oppose the street being one-way because in their opinion, Bickley is dangerous below Toxony Avenue but not between Toxony and Royal Avenues. Many cars are coming from Waverly Road.

Mr. Simon thought that restricting turning off Easton Road onto Bickley Road might be an alternative to one-way or Stop Sign restrictions.

Chief Norris reviewed various scenarios for traffic calming including their potential impacts. These included a one-way south towards Royal Avenue and a Stop Sign that does not meet PennDOT criteria. The Police Department does not recommend any traffic changes that do not meet PennDOT criteria since it is a liability issue if there is an accident. Stop Signs have been proven to increase rather than deter speeding. Chief Norris reviewed the Police Department's statistics for Bickley Road relating to traffic counts; the average speed clocked by the counters, which was approximately 30 mph; and the time of day for most traffic jams on Bickley Road.

Mr. Haywood understood the liability issue but felt that some traffic regulating measure needed to be explored. A one-way restriction might be considered. Chief Norris stated that one-way between Royal Avenue and Waverly Road could be considered if 70% of the residents are agreeable, which is a criteria of PennDOT.

Public Comment:

Nicole Vangen felt the police looked the wrong way when they monitored traffic.

Moira Rooney asked for a definition of sight distance. Chief Norris explained it.

It was Chief Norris' opinion that the traffic light at the intersection of Waverly and Easton Roads needed to be adjusted. He noted that Staff has requested PennDOT to look into this matter.

Ms. Rapport felt there was some way to mitigate the liability issue and thought that the Solicitor could review it. Mr. Bagley responded that if he advised the Township on liability, it would be in an Executive Session, not publically.

The Committee unanimously decided that the installation of a Stop Sign would be held in abeyance until further measures such as a one-way at Toxony Avenue and Waverly Road is explored.

9. Under Citizens Forum – None.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



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Bryan T. Haver  
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix



**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, March 5, 2014**  
**Curtis Hall**

<b>NAME</b> <b>(Please Print Clearly)</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE</b>
John Washington	808 E Glenside Ave Wyncote	idonothaveone @ act.com
Rick Kus	234 Haveria Ave Glenboro PA 19038 "Glenboro Fire Company"	kusctan @ yahoo.com
TED CENZI	300 Maple Ave Wyncote PA	
Nicole Varjan	217 Bickley	
Vanessa Galati	229 Bickley	
Mona K... Jenny L...	207 Bickley 139 Berkeley Rd	
Sheva Golkin	145 Bickley	
Daniel Schmitz	15 Wyncote	



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<b>NAME</b> (Please Print Clearly)	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE</b>
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