

February 11, 2014
Curtis Hall

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

Staff present were Lt. Joseph Gruver; David Jones, Interim Planner/Zoning Officer; John Norris, Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; and Bryan T. Havis, Township Manager. Also present was Joseph Bagley, Esq., Solicitor. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. McKeown called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and announced that prior to the meeting, the Commissioners held an Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

1. Under Report of the Police Chief, Chief Norris reported the following:
 - a. He reviewed the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of December, 2013.
 - b. Chief Norris reported that Officer Edward Farrell was activated for his second tour of duty in the Middle East for a minimum of six (6) months.

Mr. Haywood asked if there were any significant police activity trends between 2012 and 2013. Chief Norris responded that there were no significant trends and no significant crimes were repeated. Overall, crime in the Township has been down for the past three (3) years.

Mr. McKeown asked the total complement of police officers. Chief Norris responded that there are 73 officers and one (1) officer out on disability.

Upon motion of Mr. Haywood, the Committee unanimously accepted the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of December, 2013.

2. Mr. O'Neill reported that in 2013, the Township had its first fatality in seven (7) years as a result of a fire. There were 60 calls to the fire companies during the recent storm.

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

3. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, the Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the EMS Director for the month of January, 2014.

4. Lt. Gruver reported on Emergency Management's activities during the recent ice/snow storm (see attached). He reviewed the planning stage for the storm and issues that arose during and after the storm.

Mr. McKeown stated that he received a lot of positive calls about the Township's response during the storm.

Discussion ensued about how to advise residents who had property damage on how to submit the cost of their damage. Mr. Haywood felt that a way was needed to connect to the County. Ms. Rappoport felt that communicating and reaching out to the Township's ageing population was important. Power outage is a major concern for the elderly. Mr. Norris asked what specific information was needed from residents. Mr. Simon asked about what types of claims residents needed to submit.

Mr. Havir advised that Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Kim Kirschner will be collecting all information and compiling the data for the Township properties. She sends it to the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety. The County Department of Public Safety will formally request assistance through the state and federal government. Instructions for residents are on the Township's website and on the Emergency Management Facebook Page. Once residents contact Ms. Kirschner, she will explain what process they have to take for their own personal losses.

Mr. Simon noted that some personal care institutions had problems and was concerned about the number of such institutions that did not have emergency backup. He felt that legislation might be considered amending the Code to require such facilities to provide backup generators. Lt. Gruver responded that all of the nursing institutions in the Township have backup systems but the systems run on fuel, and the institutions were running low on fuel because the systems were running for such a long period of time. The law requires such institutions to have backup systems.

Mr. Rappoport felt that seniors who are living in apartment complexes that are not nursing institutions need to be considered as well. She reached out the state representatives in this respect.

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

6. Under Report of the Township Manager: Mr. Havir reported that the recent snow/ice storm depleted the Township's road salt supply. He asked for ratification of his issuance of a Local State of Emergency and Declaration of Disaster Emergency that are required by the Pennsylvania Office of Emergency Preparedness in order to allow the Township to acquire additional road salt from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (see attached).

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Commissioners the ratification of the Township Manager's Local State of Emergency dated February 2, 2014 necessary for acquiring road salt from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation due to unforeseen requirement as a result of an excessive number of snow storms that have required above normal road plowing salting (see attached).

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Commissioners the ratification of the Township Manager's Declaration of Disaster Emergency dated February 5, 2014 necessitated by a severe snow and ice storm on February 4, 2014 (see attached).

7. Under Old Business – None.
8. Under New Business – None.
9. Under Citizens Forum: Pauline Kretschmer thanked the police, EMS, and volunteer firefighters for their responses during the recent storm.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix

**Township of Cheltenham
Emergency Management
8230 Old York Road
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
19027**

**Storm Follow Up Briefing
Public Safety Meeting**



On Tuesday 2/4 (Wednesday 2/5 early AM) the Township was struck with an ice storm causing major power outages. The storm was forecasted well in advance allowing for team preparation. Deputy Coordinator Kirschner slept at the EOC on Tuesday evening and Coordinator Hellendall was available from home. Deputy Coordinator Gruver was not available due to a preplanned medical procedure. Other staff members were notified and placed on call. The EOC was officially opened at 04:30 AM on Wednesday morning. While a formal debriefing will be held, below are the key points for the Public Safety Meeting on Tuesday 2/10/14. As I will be unable to attend the meeting, Deputy Coordinator Gruver will be available to answer questions.

- EOC Opened and staffed from 04:30 on 2/5 until 18:00 hours on Thursday 2/6.
 - While not 'officially' open, the EOC was staffed from 08:00 until 17:00 on Friday 2/7.
- Public Work – worked tirelessly during the entire storm clearing roads and spreading salt. The biggest hindrance to opening roads was active power lines entangled in trees. The communications between Public Works and the EOC was invaluable. Coordinated efforts saved manpower and time. Much of the clean-up (open roads) involved pushing of debris to the side of the road. These areas will need follow-up in the future to remove the debris.
- Fire Department – The fire department responded to numerous calls for wires in trees and wires into houses. As usual the Fire Department did a great job in staffing fire houses to insure a rapid response during the emergency.
- Emergency Management – The team contacted all residents on the Special needs directory, who were reliant on electricity, prior to the storm to insure their safety. Every nursing and special care facility was contacted prior to the storm and every eight hours during the storm. EMA provided a generator for one facility and diesel fuel for another. At the request of the Montgomery County Communications Center, the emergency operations center facilitated radio traffic between Police officers and Public Works personnel. Emergency Management

team members were able to staff the EOC for 72 hours to assist other departments with their needs.

- EMA Facebook page – The page had over a 1,000 watchers during the storm and many “likes”. This proved to be an invaluable way to communicate with our residents. Overwhelmingly those on the page were appreciative of the communications.
- Police – During difficult times police officers did an excellent job of responding to regular calls, and assisting residents with their needs. Several Officers assisted the emergency management team during the busiest periods.
- Building and Zoning – As several trees fell through homes, B&Z was contacted and responded to evaluate the properties. While several cars were destroyed, only one home had to be condemned.
 - It should be noted that in spite of all the damage there were no injuries to any Township personnel.
- PECO – This is perhaps one of the best events we have ever worked with PECO. The cooperation and communication was fantastic. While it took (and will take) a considerable amount of time, they did an great job of communicating with us and our staffs.
 - On Sunday 2/9 PECO opened regional outreach centers at Springfield and Abington Townships. We believe they opened them at these locations as Springfield and Abington were the hardest hit communities. We did contact them about opening one in Cheltenham and they made it very clear these were regional centers and no further centers would be opened.
- Montgomery County – The County Staffs (Communications, Health Department, Emergency Management) did an exceedingly good job during this event. They were cooperative and helpful and whenever possible filled all of our needs.
- Damage assessments began (by the EMA team) on Monday 2/10. This will be led by Deputy Coordinator Kirschner and will include the possible reimbursement of funds.

In general thanks to planning and practice – this event went exceedingly well. Below is a short list of improvements we are requesting

- ❖ Comcast – We suffered Comcast outages almost immediately after the storm began. Comcast will have to be replaced by Fios which has underground cables. Deputy Emergency Manager Kirschner has already begun this project.
- ❖ Twitter – Due to the success of the Facebook account (and at the request of several residents) we believe it is imperative that we establish a Twitter account. Deputy Coordinators Gruver and Kirschner have begun this project.

- ❖ Nursing and special care facilities were not (and are not) prepared for long durations power outages. This will be address by the EMA and EMS teams in the future.
- ❖ 400MHz portable radios failed due to aged batteries. These will be replaced. Additionally a failed 400MHz radio at the police station will be replaced.
- ❖ Generators for traffic lights during power outages have been an essential part of our plan since Y2K. During this outage we have three generators stolen while operating traffic signals. While they are currently being replaced by public works, we are also working on better security and identification. It should be noted that the generators were secured with two cables and a heavy duty lock. Our generators and those of several other municipalities were stolen by thieves using high speed metal cutting blades.
- ❖ Commissioner and press briefings – Due to the sheer volume of work, we failed to issue Commissioner and press briefings every 4-8 hours. We are working on increased staffing to solve this problem.

Township of Cheltenham

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Board of Commissioners

Harvey Portner, *President*
Morton J. Simon, Jr., *Vice President*
Art Haywood
Charles D. McKeown
Daniel B. Norris
Ann L. Rappoport
J. Andrew Sharkey

Township Manager

Bryan T. Havir

Administration Building
8230 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027-1589

Phone: 215 887-1000
FAX: 215 887-1581
www.cheltenhamtownship.org



February 3, 2014

(via e-mail) and First Class Mail

Mr. Scott Mickalonis, Director
Montgomery County Emergency Preparedness
Eagleville Road
Norristown, PA 19404

Re: Declaration of Local State of Emergency for Cheltenham Township

Dear Mr. Mickalonis:

This letter is in follow-up to the e-mail message to you yesterday by Kenneth Hellendall, Emergency Management Coordinator for Cheltenham Township.

As Township Manager, I have declared a *Local State of Emergency for Cheltenham Township*, effective February 2, 2014, due to the public safety concerns that necessitate the Township acquiring additional road salt from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation due to the unforeseen requirement as a result of excessive number of snow storms that have required above-normal road plowing and salting.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 215-887-1000, ext. 112 or at bhavir@cheltenham-township.org.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

BTH:amf

cc: Public Safety Committee

Kenneth Hellendall, Emergency Management Coordinator

Joseph M. Bagley, Esq., Solicitor

Attachment



Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania

E-Mail

RESOURCE REQUEST FORM

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110
Tel. 717-651-2001 Fax 717-651-2021

Part I		Requesting Agency Contact Information (To be completed by Requesting Entity)	
Date and Time: 2-2-14 0845		Event: impending snow	
Mission Priority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Life Saving / Safety		<input type="checkbox"/> Life Sustainment <input type="checkbox"/> Incident Stabilization	
<input type="checkbox"/> Property Preservation		<input type="checkbox"/> Planned Event	
Requestor's Name: Mark S. McDonnell		Title: Public Works Superintendent	
Requestor's Organization: Cheltenham Township			
Phone #: 215-635-4600		Mobile #: 215-200-4423	Fax #: 215-635-5163
Email Address: M.McDonnell@cheltenham-township.org			
Requesting Entity Signature:			
Part II		Requested Resource(s) (To be completed by Requesting Entity)	
Date(s) and Time: 2-2-14 0845		County: Montgomery	
Purpose of Resource: Public Safety (Road Salting)			
Quantity:	Detailed Resource Requested (include resource Type/Kind): <i>Provide details on setup/transport, fuel, meals, operator(s), water, maintenance, lodging, power, etc:</i>		
	Road Salt: (200 tons)		
Delivery Site POC (Point of Contact) Mark McDonnell		Title: Public Work Superintendent	
Requestor's Organization - Cheltenham Township			
Address Where Resources will be located (include facility name, street, city, state and zip): (See Detailed Request) 8101 Old York Rd.			
County: Montgomery		Municipality: Cheltenham	
24 hour Phone #: 215-635-4600		Mobile #: 215-200-4423	Fax #: 215-635-5163
Email Address: M.McDonnell@cheltenham-township.org			
Part III		Regional Review (To be completed by PEMA Regional Office)	
Received: Date and Time:		Reviewed: Date and Time:	Forwarded HQ: Date and Time:
Augmenting Justification/Comments:			
Part IV		SEOC Review (To be completed by PEMA SEOC)	
Received: Date and Time:		Reviewed: Date and Time:	Entered Mission Board: Date and Time:
PEMA Operations Signature:		Mission Number (if applicable):	
PEMA Deputy Director Operations Signature:		Assigned To:	

DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on or about February 4, 2014 a severe snow and ice storm has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of Cheltenham Township and

WHEREAS, the severe snow and ice storm has endangered the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in Cheltenham Township, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than Cheltenham Township may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Cheltenham Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Commissioners of Cheltenham Township pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in Cheltenham Township;

FURTHER, we direct the Cheltenham Township Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

STILL FURTHER, we authorize officials of Cheltenham Township to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

Harry Porten

(Board President)

Date: February 5, 2014

Allen

(Secretary)

Date: February 5, 2014

Attest: *Anna Marie Kelly*

Date: February 5, 2014

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – 7:30 pm
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 7:45 pm
BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE – 8 pm

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST

<u>NAME</u> <i>(Please print clearly)</i>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE or E-MAIL</u>
PAULINE KRETSCHMER	608 SPRING	
KEN KRETSCHMER	"	
William Kerr	1704 Sunity 40 E. Arty ST. Norman	
DAVID L. COHEN	321 GERMANY AVE. E.P. 19427	dcohen1@ix.netcom.com
MARK BALDWIN	810 WASHINGTON LA.	
Paul Johnson	8306 High School Rd. E P	