

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

Staff present: Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; John Frye, Police Chief; Joseph O’Neill, Fire Marshal; Kenneth Hellendall, EMS Director; and Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

1. **Report of the Police Chief**

A. Chief Frye reviewed the Police Clearance and Juvenile Clearance Reports for the month of January 2017:

Mr. Simon mentioned that the overall crime rate in January 2016 to January 2017 for Part I crimes was down 23%, Retail Thefts were down 30% and Theft from Autos is down 56%. Chief Frye said there has been a spree of “smash and grab” thefts from vehicles in Melrose Park and on the 1300 block of Willow Avenue, which will increase Theft from Auto numbers in February.

B. Chief Frye reviewed a proposed Resolution amending the Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

Chief Frye explained that the Resolution was putting into writing practices already in effect within the Police Department regarding the hiring of applicants with Act 120 Certification and becoming compliant with changes to the regulations by the Municipal Police Officers Educational Training Commission (MPOETC), which certifies all new and current Police Officers. Chief Frye explained that hiring an applicant without Act 120 costs the Township approximately \$5,000 in tuition, and approximately six months of salary without an officer on the street.

Mr. Simon had some inquiries about Section 5.01 C Qualifications of Applicants, letter (e), number (9) regarding Eligibility with regard to being enrolled in a certified police academy earning their Act 120 certification, as well as the wording in Section 5.02A Appointments stating the three (3) candidates would have current Act 120 certification. Section 5.01L Eligible List will be updated on line 3 to read “examinations, which list shall be effective for one year. If during the one year period, the Civil...”

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution amending the Civil Service Rules and Regulations to require Act 120 Certification for all new Police Officer hires, alignment with new Municipal Police Officers Educational Training

Commission and to permit termination of an eligibility list at any time, pending legal counsel clarification.

- C. Chief Frye announced the next Cheltenham Police Athletic League (PAL) event will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Towers at Wyncote. PAL participants will have a choice to either watch a movie in the 80 seat theater, or play a game of basketball in the gymnasium next to the theater. After the movie and basketball game, there will be a pizza party at 7:00 p.m. for all PAL participants.
- D. Mr. Brockington inquired to Chief Frye if Cheltenham Township was a Sanctuary City. Chief Frye stated Cheltenham is not a Sanctuary City.
- E. Mr. Norris asked who had the final say on what Police Officers are hired. Chief Frye stated that the Township Manager has the final approval. The process is a written examination, a physical agility test, background investigation by the Police Department, a polygraph examination, an interview with the Police Chief and all Police Staff, followed by a recommendation to the Township Manager who interviews the applicant and has final approval.

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

2. Report of the Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal O'Neill stated that the Township fire departments are on par with national standards with responding to fire calls. They have implemented a new reporting format for the fire departments and it is included in the January report and working well.

Fire Marshal O'Neill presented a Resolution honoring Robert Scholly, Sr. upon his retirement effective this month after 60 years of active volunteer service with the Glenside Fire Company.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution honoring Robert Scholly, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement from active volunteer service with the Glenside Fire Company after 60 years to be presented at the Board of Commissioners April 19, 2017 Legislative meeting.

Ms. Rappoport mentioned that the Ogontz Fire Company celebrated its 125th anniversary and she attended the banquet on March 4, 2017 of which Resolutions were presented. She congratulated them on this accomplishment since they are 125 years old and the Township is only 118 years old. Ms. Rappoport thanked all the fire companies for their service.

Mr. Norris inquired about the future planning discussions. Fire Marshal O'Neill stated they are moving forward with the Strategic Planning and working on the implementation. It is a lengthy process and a large undertaking, but they are moving forward.

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

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Emergency Medical Services Director for the month of February 2017.

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

Mr. Hellendall mentioned the recent threats to numerous Jewish institutions within the region. Emergency Management personnel have received numerous calls from local institutions and reviewed their evacuation plans and other emergency plans with them. All plans have been reviewed with Jewish institutions and schools at this point.

Mr. Norris inquired about grants for security for the Jewish institutions for adding security. Mr. Hellendall stated that the Township can not apply for any grant on behalf of the institutions; each institution has to apply individually. Mr. Hellendall stated Emergency Management has assisted with writing of grants and one facility did receive funding for a camera and security system. These grants are only available for the religious or faith-based institutions not for the schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Emergency Management Coordinator for the month of January 2017.

5. **Report of the Township Manager:** None.

6. **Old Business:** None.

7. **New Business:** None.

8. **Citizens' Forum:**

Michael Slotnick, 114 Cottman Avenue, Cheltenham, inquired about:

- When residents will receive copies of the video surveillance of their sewer laterals. Mr. Simon stated that Phase II of the Township's Ordinance regarding the sewer inspections has not yet been implemented. The Township is aware of these concerns and will address it when the second part of the Ordinance is reviewed and approved.
- Ticketing vehicles that are parking past signage posted stating "No Parking" when cars are partially beyond the sign.
- Working with Philadelphia to add a sign on the Philadelphia side of Cottman Avenue at Ryers Avenue with a "No Left Turn" sign. This was taken under advisement by the Committee.

- Whether residents must place their trash in cans and if the Township will purchase the large carts, like they did for recycling. Mr. Norris stated that the Township does not require trashcans and Mr. Havir stated that the purchase of trash carts has been discussed, but not implemented.

9. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Norris, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

as per Kathryn Gallagher



Meeting Attendance Sheet



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

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

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

(Please Print Clearly)

No.	Name	E-mail or Other Contact Info, if desired	Member (Y/N)
1	Kim Rose	KimRose@comcast.net	
2	Mike Zlotnick	MonstersMagh@Verizon.net	
3	THOMAS ESTILAW	VZE15439Y@VERIZON.NET	
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