

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

Staff present were Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; John Weed, Deputy Police Chief; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshall; and Bryan T. Havar, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Norris called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. **Report of the Police Chief**

A. Deputy Chief Weed reviewed the Police Clearance and Juvenile Clearance Reports for the month of April 2017.

Mr. Norris commented regarding the statistic that burglaries are down from last year. He also reminded residents that Theft From Vehicles is still occurring, these are crimes of opportunity most of the time and to remember to always lock your vehicle.

Ms. Rappoport asked Deputy Chief Weed why there seemed to be an increase in Domestic Disturbances. Deputy Chief Weed explained that there are often numerous police responses to the same residence because it often takes a victim multiple police responses before the victim seeks help.

Mr. Sharkey discussed parking tickets with regard to commercial districts. He stated he realized there is a balance between revenue and the need to encourage people to shop in the commercial districts. He requested that the meter person make herself well-known in the commercial districts before writing parking tickets.

Mr. Holland asked Deputy Chief Weed to check into the intersection of Cheltenham Avenue at the Laverock sign (Hillcrest Road) due to resident complaints that there has been an increase in accidents at this intersection.

Mr. Brockington remarked on the change in motor vehicle violations for speeding from 2016 at 24 for the month and 127 speeding citations in 2017. He also discussed speeding in Cheltenham Village, stating that residents have been threatening to close down streets to protest speeding. Deputy Chief Weed stated that Highways Safety Officers do targeted traffic enforcement, patrol officers have been doing selective enforcement when they can between other incidents. The Police Department has received grants for details related to aggressive driving, speeding and seat belt enforcement. Officers also watch stop signs for violations when they can, again between other police response incidents. Deputy Chief discussed other tactics, including use of the speed trailer, speed signs on telephone poles and speed counters on the streets.

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

B. Mr. Norris began a discussion regarding the installation of a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Windsor Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue. Mr. Norris introduced Mark Rosser who thanked the Cheltenham Police Department for everything they are doing to combat and enforce speeding as well as stop sign violations, however speeding is a huge issue at this intersection because it is unique in design as well as the angle and hill on Woodlawn Avenue and the hedge buffering the edge of a property at the corner. He wants the intersection to be safer and feels a 4-way stop sign would be effective. He stated this intersection has been discussed at other meetings over the past 9 years. He walked the neighborhood to see if there was support for a 4-way stop at the intersection and it was unanimous with the neighbors he spoke with. Mr. Rosser respectfully requested that the Committee recommend a 4-way stop be placed at Windsor Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue.

Pat Derr of 524 Crest Avenue spoke about an accident she was in during the month of October 2015. She stated that she felt had a stop sign been installed for the vehicles on Woodlawn Avenue to be required to stop, it would have prevented her accident. She respectfully requested the Committee recommend a 4-way stop be placed at Windsor Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue.

Carra Minkoff of 118 Windsor Avenue spoke stating that she rides her bicycle in the area often and knows how easy it is to gain speed coming down the hill on Woodlawn Avenue. She spoke of hearing many screeches and horns honking at the intersection of Windsor Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue. She stated that with the stop signs on Woodlawn Avenue at Melrose Avenue motorists assume there is one at Woodlawn Avenue as well. Ms. Minkoff respectfully requested that the Committee recommend a 4-way stop be placed at Windsor Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue.

Melissa Doebley of 7413 Woodlawn Avenue stated she has been a resident of this block for 14 years and feels that the bus stop at this intersection is not safe for the children without a 4-way stop. She also respectfully requested that the Committee recommend a 4-way stop be placed at Windsor Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue.

Mr. Norris stated he drove through the intersection daily and felt that the safety of the school students at the intersection was paramount. He stated he strongly agrees the Committee should recommend the 4-way stop be placed at Windsor Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue.

Mr. Rosser again spoke stating that many years ago the intersection was reversed and the stop signs were for Woodlawn Avenue and Windsor Avenue had the right-of-way. He stated that Windsor Avenue has a lower volume of traffic, where Woodlawn has the higher volume and it made more sense to have the traffic on Woodlawn Avenue stop. Additionally, Mr. Rosser stated that the hedge at the corner has been trimmed back, however it often becomes overgrown again impeding motorists sight up the hill on Woodlawn when attempting to cross or turn onto Woodlawn Avenue from Windsor Avenue.

Ms. Minkoff stated that lines had recently been painted and signs that say "cross traffic does not have a stop".

Ms. Rappoport stated that she is a strong proponent of the idea based on experience with 4-way stop signs, but wanted to remind the residents it is not a guarantee, that vigilance is paramount. Motorists must stop at stop signs.

Mr. Pransky stated that Windsor Avenue was a short street and did not have a lot of traffic flow.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners authorize the advertisement of its intent to consider the adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 285 of the Township Code, thereof, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic,” at its regularly-scheduled meeting on July 19, 2017, adding a stop street on Windsor Avenue at Woodlawn Avenue.

C. Deputy Chief Weed presented an Ordinance amending the Vehicles and Traffic Code to add 25 MPH speed limit on Pleasant Hill Road from Front Street to Brookfield Road and a Stop Street on Ryers Avenue at Laurel Avenue.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners authorize the advertisement of its intent to consider the adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 285 of the Township Code, thereof, entitled “Vehicle and Traffic” at its regularly-scheduled meeting on July 19, 2017, adding 25 MPH speed limit on Pleasant Hill Road from Front Street to Brookfield Road and a Stop Street at Ryers Avenue at Laurel Avenue.

D. Deputy Chief Weed announced that two Police Officers had been hired, Officer Andrew Dunn and Officer Timothy Filoon and they will be sworn in at the June 21, 2017 Board of Commissioners meeting by Magisterial District Judge Elizabeth A. McHugh.

Mr. Holland asked Deputy Chief Weed if these officers had been through the police academy or had prior police experience. Deputy Chief Weed stated that both officers were from other Pennsylvania police departments and went right into the Field Training Program when they started on May 15, 2017.

E. Deputy Chief Weed announced that the Police Department finalized details with Jenkintown Police Dept. and SEPTA and is having the next Coffee with a Cop community outreach program at the Jenkintown Train Station from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2017.

## 2. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

Mr. O’Neill reviewed the report for the month of April 2017. He stated that the Township is having a typical year.

Mr. Sharkey commented about the fire in London. He asked Mr. O’Neill if the Towers at Wyncote had plans for evacuations or fire drills in the event such a fire was to start in that facility.

Mr. O'Neill explained that there programs are in place at buildings that are ten (10) stories or more including Elkins Park House Apartments, Wyncote House and Towers at Wyncote. They are all 1A construction or "fire proof". He reminded those who live in such facilities if there is a fire or smoke in the hallway to Protect in Place

Mr. O'Neill also asked the Committee to recognize the heroic deeds of those who saved a resident's life when a fire broke out at a residence in La Mott.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously recommended that a Resolution be presented to the children involved in this heroic act at a future Board of Commissioners meeting.

Mr. O'Neill will get in touch with the parents to ensure their attendance at a future meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

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

**3. Report of the EMS Director**

Mr. Havir presented the EMS report in Mr. Hellendall's absence.

Mr. Simon stated that in the minutes of the Library Meeting reported that the library personnel have not been trained on the AED equipment in their facilities. Mr. Havir stated he would speak to Mr. Hellendall and ensure that personnel are retrained. Training was provided when the equipment was originally installed approximately five (5) years ago.

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

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

Mr. Havir presented the EMA report in Mr. Hellendall's absence.

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Emergency Management Coordinator.

**5. Report of the Township Manager:**

Mr. Havir stated that the Township received an email from the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers which is offering a flood risk workshop next Thursday, June 22, 2017 at the Legion Post in Ambler from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PEMA, FEMA and County agencies will be in attendance. Mr. Havir stated that they sent a flyer via e-blast to residents and would be posting the flyer in all appropriate Township facilities.

Mr. Sharkey stated that when Hurricane Lee hit there was a block captain email list and that those captains should be emailed as well, if their email list is still valid.

6. **Old Business:** None.

7. **New Business:**

Mr. Sharkey stated that in the past the Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution requesting Pennsylvania pass legislation permitting local use of radar for speed enforcement for the Police Department. He requested the Township Administration as well as each committee member send letters to the State House of Representatives and the State Senate requesting a vote to allow local law enforcement the use of radar speed enforcement.

Mr. Norris stated that Pennsylvania is either one of the only or one of two states who currently do not allow local law enforcement to use radar.

8. **Citizens' Forum:** None.

9. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Norris, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



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Bryan T. Haver  
Township Manager

as per Kathryn Gallagher



Meeting Attendance Sheet



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

Thursday, June 15, 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	Pat Derr	pderr@ynkhdv.com	N
2	Mark Rosser	Mark Rosser @ verizon.net	N
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5	CARRA MINKOFF & ELI MINKOFF	CARRAJoy@PLANETMINKOFF.COM	N
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