

The regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** for February 2022 was held tonight via web-conference, Chairman Brockington presiding. Members present were Commissioners Areman, Holland, Rappoport, Pransky, Zygmund-Felt, and Ex-Officio member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; John Slavin, Acting Police Chief; Scott Lynch, Fire Marshall and Kenneth Hellendall, Director EMS and Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mr. Norris announced the Board met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel, potential litigation, potential purchase of real property, emergency preparedness and protection of public safety, and matters which if discussed in public would violate a lawful privilege.

Mr. Brockington called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 7:42 p.m.

1. **Report of the Acting Police Chief**

- a) Acting Chief Slavin reviewed the Police Clearance and Juvenile Clearance Reports for the month of December 2021.

Mr. Brockington asked if the increase in armed robberies and thefts are due to the increase in crime in Philadelphia. Acting Chief Slavin said they are seeing some residuals coming over from Philadelphia but they are still at a manageable level, and thankfully not seeing the violent crimes that Philadelphia has been seeing. Mr. Norris wanted to let residents know that when comparing the 2021 number to 2020, crime in Cheltenham is down substantially; specifically burglary and theft as well as auto accidents which are down sharply. Mrs. Rappoport made note that while auto crashes are down, there were more vehicles and injuries in 2021 than the previous year.

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

- b) Acting Chief Slavin provided an update on the January 23, 2022 automobile accident on Greenwood Avenue that resulted in the death of a male in his late teens as well as injured four other teenagers in the vehicle. This was a traumatic incident for the responding Police, Fire and EMS personnel as well as the family and residents along Greenwood Avenue. Acting Chief Slavin noted he had seen a few posts on social media regarding the accident and wanted to let everyone know this is an ongoing investigation with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office. There are several causes and factors to this accident, and once a determination is made, the District Attorney will make a joint statement with CTPD. Mr. Brockington opened public comment to the residents, and lengthy discussion followed regarding concerns of traffic and speeding along Greenwood Avenue. Mr. Brockington noted that since this is a State Road, any type of traffic calming, i.e. signs, speed bumps, stop signs etc., must be approved by PennDOT. Mr. Zienkowski stated that the PennDOT Traffic Study is expected to be complete around mid-February and it will be posted online when he receives it. Both stated that a special meeting will be set up to specifically address the PennDOT Traffic Study.
- c) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for DEVO & Associates in the amount of \$2,649.88 for the cost of modem kits for the parking kiosks.
- d) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for Chris Boyle Law Enforcement Consulting, LLC in the amount of \$5,841 for the 2022 Monthly Caselaw Updates membership renewal.

- e) Consider recommending approval of a blanket purchase order for McDonald Uniform Company, Inc. in the amount of \$9,000 for the cost of equipping three new officers with their initial issued department uniforms and duty equipment.

Mr. Brockington requested these three requests be approved together. Mr. Norris asked if any of these can be taken from the Asset Forfeiture account. Acting Chief Slavin said there are specific guidelines to using the funds in the Asset Forfeiture account, and if an item is budgeted, which 1c and 1e are, the funds cannot be taken from Asset Forfeiture.

There was discussion on the caselaw updates from Chris Boyle. Lt. Snyder updated the Committee on the value of the updates and said that nearly half of the officers requested further training on civil cases. Knowledge will be tested by taking a quiz and will be tracked within PowerDMS. Should an officer fail the quiz, there will be remedial training provided.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve purchase orders for DEVO & Associates in the amount of \$2,649.88, Chris Boyle Law Enforcement Consulting, LLC in the amount of \$5,841 and McDonald Uniform Company, Inc. in the amount of \$9,000.

- f) Consider recommending approval of a purchase order for Galls, LLC in the amount of \$45,000 the annual uniform and equipment requisition.

**Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a purchase order for Galls, LLC. in the amount of \$45,000.

- g) **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 285, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 285-43, to add Handicap Parking in front of 7322 Butcher Street at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 16, 2022.

- h) **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize advertisement of its intention to consider the adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 285, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 285-43, to add Handicap Parking in front of 7322 Butcher Street.

2. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

Mr. Lynch presented the fire report for the month of December 2021 and the Fire Board minutes from January 6, 2022.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the December 2021 report of the Fire Marshal and the January 6, 2022 Fire Board minutes.

3. **Report of the EMS Director**

Mr. Hellendall presented the EMS Operational Report for the month of January 2022, and Financial, Detail, and Statistical Reports for the month of December 2021.

4. **Report of the EMA Director**

Mr. Hellendall said weekly testing of unvaccinated employees has begun. He also reported that as of the meeting, there are no employees out with COVID, EMS COVID patient numbers are down, and he has allowed training to resume in person. The Township Buildings are set to reopen on February 28 and he is hoping that by April 4, all Township-wide COVID requirements will go away. Mr.

Pransky raised concerns that lifting the restrictions before the Easter holidays may be premature. Mr. Hellendall said the information guiding the decisions is from the County. Mandatory trainings were put on hold, and it is important that these trainings get back on track.

Mr. Hellendall said Emergency Management was asked to speak with local synagogues regarding building security. Sgt. Griffin and Officer Lambrechtse will conduct active shooter training utilizing Run.Hide.Fight for religious organizations. Mr. Brockington will work with Mr. Hellendall to reach out to the three religious organizations in his ward to make similar presentations.

Upon the motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Reports of the EMS Director & Emergency Management Coordinator.

5. **Old Business:**

Acting Chief Slavin updated the Committee on the new Pre-Trial Service changes that are taking place on Monday, February 14, 2022. Everything was worked out with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, but they backed out last minute due to funding and personnel issues. The Montgomery County Police Chiefs Association has been diligently working to figure something out not only for Cheltenham, but all the Departments furthest from Norristown. Acting Chief Slavin is looking to the Commissioners for assistance. Mr. Brockington asked for all the information and will have the Board of Commissioners write a letter encouraging more funding and assistance.

6. **New Business:** None.

7. **Citizens Forum:**

*Leah Modigliani, Greenwood Avenue*, stated her concern about speeding along Greenwood Ave, and said she witnessed a near accident near Bent Road and Greenwood Avenue in which a vehicle was going 70-80 mph. She would like to see stop signs at Barker Road and Greenwood Avenue. Ms. Rappoport added that this stretch of Greenwood Avenue has a lot of tight turns and no traffic calming, and has asked that this be part of the PennDOT study.

*Brooke Welsh* noted there were no speed limit signs to be seen driving down Greenwood Avenue from Church Road and asked if the Township could put some up without asking PennDOT. Sgt. Tyler said he will look to see if there are missing signs and have them replaced.

*Theresa Camerota* asked if the public will have the opportunity to ask the traffic engineering firm questions. Mr. Zienkowski said he would like all questions forwarded to him, Mr. Brockington, and/or Acting Chief Slavin because the Township is billed by the hour and would like to consolidate the questions to keep the expense down. Ms. Camerota also asked if the Greenwood Avenue and Church Road intersection project is still moving forward. Mr. Zienkowski said as far as he is aware, it is still going forward but does not expect to start for at least another year.

*Mirka Augustine* would like to see more enforcement of speeders on Greenwood Avenue. Acting Chief Slavin said enforcement has been down the past two years due to COVID and other reasons, but he is working to increase this as part of his multi-pronged approach to traffic issues. Mr. Holland suggested the Township look into purchasing traffic calming signs for residential property to encourage drivers to slow down, while waiting for the PennDOT study to be complete. There was a short discussion on where to pull the funds from to cover the cost of the signs. It was decided to move forward with this and make sure they are available for other parts of the Township as well. Signs must not be put on properties without the owner's permission.

*Tom Mullian:* noted he created his own signs two years ago along Church Road and asked to be reimbursed for his cost.

*Brooke Welsh:* asked that the signs not be generic but note that they are sponsored by Cheltenham Township. She would also like to see a ‘Welcome to Cheltenham Township, Please Slow Down’ sign placed near Route 309 & Greenwood Avenue to discourage speeding within the Township.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Brockington, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



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Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

per Eileen Wass