

May 4, 2011
Curtis Hall

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** was held tonight, J. Andrew Sharkey, Chairman, presiding. Members present were Commissioners Hampton, Haywood, McKeown, Simon and Swavola. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Portner. Staff present were Joseph Bagley, Wisler Pearlstine LLC; Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager; John J. Norris, Chief of Police; Kevin O'Brien, Deputy Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; Carmen Reitano, Assistant to the Township Engineer, and David G. Kraynik, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Sharkey called the meeting to order.

1. Mr. Sharkey asked for a moment of silence in honor of the recent passing of Sgt. Donald Drobil.
2. Chief Norris reviewed his Report for the month of March, 2011.
3. The Committee reviewed a proposed Ordinance to the Traffic Code as follows:

ADD to Brookside Road:

- NO PARKING, east side, Waring Road to 67 feet south.
- NO PARKING, east side, Shoemaker Road to 50 feet north.
- NO PARKING, west side, Shoemaker Road to 50 feet north

Chief Norris advised that said amendments are due to sight distance issues.

4. Upon motion of Mr. Simon, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it was recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 285, thereof, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" (see attached).

5. Chief Norris gave an update on the concerns about high traffic volume in the vicinity of the 100 block of Waverly Road. He reviewed the Police Department's research of the area that included but was not limited to the following:

- review of the reason for the installation of the current Stop Sign at Glenside Avenue and Waverly Road in 2004 due to high traffic
- the many hours it took to review at length the suggestions from residents and Ms. Hampton
- meetings with residents
- observation of traffic patterns throughout various times of the day
- traffic counts
- speed counts
- volume counts
- research of vehicle crash history in the area
- visible enforcement presence
- patrol enforcement
- consultation and review of data and residents' suggestions with PennDot's Local Traffic Assistance Program ("LTAP") to discuss traffic patterns, alternating current traffic patterns, and current and possible new restrictions
- numerous Police Department meetings held to address the problem without impacting other areas of the neighborhood
- 31 hours of direct enforcement for speeding and Stop Sign violations during the month of March and only 27 vehicles were stopped
- PennDOT criteria for traffic calming measures were studied to determine what criteria could be fulfilled, and most of PennDOT's criteria for the 100 block of Waverly was not met
- the Police Department determined that every change that was recommended by residents would negatively impact other streets such as Hewett Road, Glenview Road, Park Lane, and the sections east and west of Glenside Avenue and Hewett Road
- a comparison of the traffic patterns along Waverly Road resulted in statistically identifying that there are numerous streets in other neighborhoods in the Township that had similar, if not more, cut-thru problems and traffic, and some examples Chief Norris noted that have more excessive Average Daily Traffic ("ADT") than Waverly Road were Brooke Road, Bickley Road, Cadwalader Avenue, Keswick Avenue, Ashbourne Road, and Spring Avenue
- LTAP's response was reviewed, and said response indicates that LTAP does not consider there to be a significant cut-thru issue based on PennDOT guidelines and recommends no action be taken at this time
- Township Staff reviewed the issues and suggestions and agree with the LTAP engineer.

In conclusion, Chief Norris stated that he could not recommend a solution that would not impact the rest of the community. He recommended leaving the traffic restrictions as they are currently, and maintain enforcement on Waverly Road.

Mr. Sharkey stated that the Commissioners are disappointed that LTAP did not recommend anything that was substantive but a lot of effort by LTAP and the Police Department was put into this issue.

Ms. Hampton felt there was a lack of Township policy to address traffic in general and suggested more policies to provide answers to the community.

Chief Norris responded that there are hundreds of cut-thru streets in the Township, and Stop Signs at every intersection just create more issues. The Township does have policies, which are based on PennDOT's criteria, and any violation of said criteria opens the Township to violations and liability. As an example, Chief Norris noted that residents along Tookany Creek Parkway wanted trucks and motorcycles prohibited but in doing so, the Township would lose a considerable amount of liquid fuels funding, which the state threatened to do. It was his opinion that the addition of more Stop Signs would negatively impact other streets.

Mr. McKeown stated that the most numerous cut-thru traffic issues in the Township are along the small streets in Cheltenham Village where motorists try to avoid Cottman Avenue and cut-thru to go east and south into Philadelphia. When traffic alterations were recommended neighbors on various streets opposed each other. All neighborhoods have children and issues but PennDOT regulations have to be adhered to because the Township does not want lawsuits.

Mr. Simon questioned if there was still an appropriate demand for a Stop Sign on Glenside Avenue at Waverly Road. Chief Norris responded that the people along the streets north of Glenside Avenue have a problem making left turns out of their streets, and there is an extensive accident history, and the sight distance problems for those streets remain. Residents have contacted the Police Department to express their opposition to removing said Stop Sign. Removing said Stop Sign will negatively impact that neighborhood.

Ms. Hampton asked about placing Stop Signs at North Avenue and at South Avenue on Glenside Avenue and a "Do Not Enter" restriction on Waverly Road at Glenside Avenue. Chief Norris responded that a "Do Not Enter" will affect Hewett Road and Glenview Road.

There were comments from the public:

Lisa Terry, 120 Waverly Road, stated that she is a realtor; homes along Waverly Road are being devalued; she wanted Stop Signs at North Avenue and at South Avenue; she did not believe that said Stop Signs would encourage cut-thru's to the smaller streets, and in her opinion, this would solve the problem for Waverly Road and the neighbors north of Glenside Avenue. She felt the Township should be more assertive with PennDOT.

Mr. Sharkey responded that Stop Signs as Ms. Terry suggested do not meet PennDot's warrants and would not stop the cut-thru's. Mr. Simon noted that the traffic count has decreased since 2005. Residents said that the traffic count in 2005 was low because the bridge on Glenside Avenue was under construction. Mr. Simon said the huge decrease now is below the count when the bridge was out.

Olga McHugh, 127 Hewett Road, stated that she attends Jenkintown meetings and that borough puts up temporary Stop Signs and felt Cheltenham should consider the same. She supported Ms. Terry's request for Stop Signs. She noted that the Stop Sign at the exit of Thomas Williams Park has been knocked down and the No Parking zone at the Stop Sign on Hewett Road at Glenside Avenue did not appear to be according to Ordinance.

Michael Broadbant, 121 Waverly Road, asked how judgment is made as to whether or not Stop Signs meet the warrants and what options were considered, i.e. multiple Stop Signs or one alternative Stop Sign. Chief Norris stated that the warrants were not met for several reasons but the Stop Sign at Waverly Road did not have any bearing on whether a 3-way Stop is installed at North and at South Avenues. Stop Signs and turn restrictions were considered at every street and intersection in combination with each other and separately. The LTAP traffic engineer, in conjunction with Highway Safety, studied every possible alternative but every alternative would have impact elsewhere.

Tim Terry, 120 Waverly Road, asked why an LTAP representative was not present since it seems LTAP runs the Township.

Mr. Sharkey responded that LTAP does not run the Township, the Commissioners do, and they have asked the Police Department to give this issue a lot of attention, which has taken the Police Department's attention away from other Township neighborhoods that need attention. A lot of time was taken on this issue, a more than ample amount of time was devoted to it, and if there was a solution that could be done, the Township would do it. LTAP was asked to give its assistance and had no recommendations. Mr. Sharkey sympathized with the residents and stated that unfortunately sometimes there are no solutions.

It was Mr. Terry's opinion that the situation was created by the Township by the implementation of the Stop Sign. LTAP agreed to the Township's recommendation but did not make it, and the Township is asking them to alleviate this issue now. He felt that there were erroneous numbers about the decrease in traffic when in actuality the bridge on Glenside Avenue was out and cars were detoured to Waverly Road. He did not feel every possibility was exhausted.

Ms. Hampton recommended that the Chief and Commissioners place Stop Signs at North and at South Avenues on Glenside Avenue for a trial period of 90-days to study the results on the traffic pattern and affects on the neighborhood.

Mr. Simon asked if eliminating the Waverly Road Stop Sign and moving it to either North or South Avenues might benefit the people living on the railroad track side to get out since it would put a stop somewhere within a relative distance of North and South Avenues. He felt the Stop Sign on Waverly Road is an encouragement for a left turn. He suggested this be investigated further but did not favor having three (3) Stop Signs within several hundred feet including the Waverly Road Stop Sign.

In response to Ms. Hampton's recommendation, Chief Norris did not believe North and South Avenues meet the warrants for Stop Signs but will research it.

Mr. Sharkey stated that the Chief will investigate if Stop Signs at North and at South Avenues meet the warrants. If they do, this will be put on the June agenda of the Public Safety Committee meeting for consideration. If they do not meet the warrants, they will not be placed on the agenda.

Mr. Haywood asked that input be received from the residents who live north and south of the proposed Stop Signs.

Ms. Hampton asked that certain residents present from streets other than Waverly Road be heard. There were comments from the public as follows:

Matthew Mundy, 110 Hewett Road, felt that if the Commissioners move forward with any temporary solutions, the impact upon the surrounding community and roads be considered. He asked that the Greenwood Avenue bridge closing also be considered relative to its impact.

Dave Conly, 146 Glenview Road, was concerned about the impact of the Greenwood Avenue bridge closing. He asked the Township to consider an holistic study of the

corridor between Route 309 and Glenside Avenue between Rices Mill Road and Washington Lane and Route 73 where there are a lot of cut-thru streets.

Mr. McKeown noted that a resident on Jefferson Avenue was recognized by the Philadelphia Police Department for leading them to the apprehension of a criminal in Philadelphia. He thanked the Township's Fire and Police Departments for their rapid response to a recent 2 a.m. fire at Laurel and Central Avenues.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of March, 2011 were accepted.

7. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Fire Marshal for the month of March, 2011 was accepted.

8. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the EMS Director for the month of March, 2011 was accepted.

9. Under New Business: Ms. Hampton asked for "Pedestrian Crossing" signage at the intersection of Rices Mill Road and Glenside Avenue. There is a bus stop and handicap curb cuts at that intersection.

10. Under Citizens' Forum: Joseph Stuckert, Chief of the Glenside Fire Company, advised of the new Fire Department website ("CTFD.net") and Facebook page due to a grant received in 2008. These are going to be used as recruitment tools to help sustain the Fire Department now and in the future. The Fire Department has recently has a complimentary article written about it in The Pennsylvania Firemen. The Fire Companies are trying to work as a whole to help with the future of the Township.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Kraynik', written over a horizontal line.

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM, CHAPTER 285 THEREOF, ENTITLED VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, BY AMENDING CERTAIN STREET AND PARKING REGULATIONS.

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Cheltenham hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. The Code of the Township of Cheltenham, Chapter 285, Article IV, entitled Schedule of Traffic Regulations, Section 285-43 thereof is hereby amended by **ADDING** the following:

- BROOKSIDE ROAD (5) NO PARKING, east side, Waring Road to 67 feet south.
- BROOKSIDE ROAD (6) NO PARKING, east side, Shoemaker Road to 50 feet north.
- BROOKSIDE ROAD (7) NO PARKING, west side, Shoemaker Road to 50 feet north and 42 feet south.

SECTION 2. That in all other respects Chapter 285 of the Code of the Township of Cheltenham is hereby approved and accepted as amended, and shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

ENACTED into an Ordinance this **18th day of May, A.D., 2011.**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM

By _____
Harvey Portner, President

ATTEST: _____
David G. Kraynik, Secretary



PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST
Public Affairs Committee, 7:30 p.m.
Public Safety Committee, 7:45 p.m.
Building and Zoning Committee, 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
Curtis Hall

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
BOB DE MARIA	65 LINCOLN Pk	DEMARIY@VERIZON.NET
MATT MUNDY	110 HEWITT RD	MMTMUNDY@M.V.COM
JOE PHILIPINO	122 Waverly	215 920 7222
Tim + Lisa Terry	120 Waverly Rd.	215-464-0571
Kristin McHugh	115 E Waverly Rd	215 885 2061
PEG O'ROURKE	105 Waverly Rd	215 884 9239
JULIE LIZ BUDAK	107 Waverly Rd	215-572-1526
STEVEN DUGALI	506 STARBUCK R	610-649-0311



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Public Affairs Committee, 7:30 p.m.
Public Safety Committee, 7:45 p.m.
Building and Zoning Committee, 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
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NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
Michael Broadbent	121 Waverly	
D. McHugh	127 Hewett Rd	
Margaret Griffen	419 Lodges Ln.	
JUSTIN RUBY		
Melanie Valerio	173 Fernbrook Ave	
Joel Edelstein	7935 Park Av	☎ 215 782 1704
Tom McHugh	127 Hewett Rd.	