

April 7, 2009
Township Building

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Harvey Portner, Chairman, presiding. Members present were Commissioners Sharkey, Simon and Swavola. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Greenwald. Staff present were Joseph Bagley, Wisler Pearlstine LLC; Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager; Kenneth Hellendall, EMS Director; John J. Norris, Chief of Police; Kevin O'Brien, Deputy Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; Ruth Littner Shaw, Main Street Manager; and David G. Krainik, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Portner called the meeting to order.

1. Chief Norris reviewed the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of February, 2009.
2. Chief Norris presented a status report on crime in the Township:
 - Overall Part One Crime by UCR has decreased in 2008 from 2007 by 11%.
 - In 2003, 355 people were arrested from Philadelphia and 154 from Cheltenham. In 2008, 459 individuals were from Philadelphia and 205 from Cheltenham. Arrests have increased every year except 2008 when they went down 9.6%. That is mostly because in 2007 there was an unusually high number of arrests – 930 in 2007 and 841 in 2008.
 - Armed Robberies have decreased in 2008 by 36%
 - Strong-arm robberies have increased by 3%
 - Vast majority of robberies occur in the vicinity of the two malls because of retail thefts.
 - There were purse snatchings on the east side of the Township. A male was arrested in Philadelphia.
 - The Lukoil robberies occurred on a Friday two weeks apart. In each instance the manager was not there. There are several suspects, but not enough proof to make an arrest. The area is being patrolled.
 - Jenkintown has made an arrest on the Summit Ave home invasion. This has lead to information on a group that may be doing the robberies.
 - Cheltenham is working with Philadelphia, Jenkintown, Abington and the Montgomery County detectives on sharing information. A meeting was held on April 2, 2009 as part of an ongoing cooperative effort.
 - Thefts from autos increased by 18% in 2008 over 2007, due mostly to unlocked vehicles parked on the street and in the driveways.
 - 2008 saw an 8% drop in burglaries Township wide.
 - So far this year, there is a 31% decrease in burglaries Township wide compared to the same period last year.

Chief Norris advised that Cheltenham's Police Department staff meets with surrounding Townships in a crime sharing forum every month. Intelligence detectives talk almost daily. Crime alert e-mails are sent daily from Montgomery, Philadelphia and Bucks Counties. Cheltenham has trained patrol officers to collect evidence, including fingerprints from crime scenes even theft from autos. Despite an outreach campaign, people are still leaving vehicles unlocked and pocketbooks, computers and golf clubs inside.

3. Chief Norris reviewed Federal Stimulus Grants passed by Congress. The Police Department would like to apply for funds under these grants. They are the Bryne Memorial Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and the COPS Hiring Recovery Program.

The JAG, which is based on a formula of population and violent crime statistics combined with a minimum allocation to ensure that each state receives an appropriate share of funding, is not a stand-alone grant since it includes the need for a Memorandum of Understanding and a Resolution from other municipalities. Under this grant, the Police Department would like to apply for portable police radios, a camcorder, a canine trailer to transport two canines, and for overtime to combat specific crimes and graffiti.

Under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program, the Police Department could hire one new officer whose entry level salary and benefits would be covered by this grant.

4. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Police Chief was authorized to pursue application for said grants and to present a Memorandum of Understanding and Resolution for the JAG at a future meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

5. Upon motion of Mr. Simon, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 285 thereof, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" (see attachment).

6. Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Police Activity/Community Policing Unit, Clearance and Juvenile Contact Reports for the month of February, 2009, were accepted.

7. Fire Marshal O'Neill reported that actual in-service runs for the Fire Department are about the same as this period last year.

Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Fire Marshal for the month of March, 2009 was accepted.

8. The Committee considered a request from EMS Director Kenneth Hellendall to increase fees for requests for patient information trip sheets. Most of the sheets are requested by lawyers for litigation cases not related to the Township. EMS receives about three requests per day. The charge for the past 10 years has been \$15. Due to the time it takes to research records, duplicating and mailing, Mr. Hellendall asked for a fee increase to \$25 to keep in line with other county municipalities.

9. Upon motion of Mr. Swavola, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners an increase in EMS Trip Sheet Fees from \$15 to \$25.

10. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the EMS Director for the month of February, 2009 was accepted.

11. David Schwartz and Joseph Reaney were present to represent the LaMott Fire Company and discuss its expansion project. Hal Lichtman, architect, was present and distributed plans. He discussed grants that were received, including funds for a new emergency generator. The Fire Company wants to add another bay, improve the downstairs area, restrooms, kitchen, heating and suppression system. It will need an expansion of the leased area or an easement to build on the adjacent property.

It is hoped the work can qualify for stimulus dollars. The Township was asked for backup data and assistance in applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

In response to a question from Mr. Sharkey, Mr. Havir did not know if the Fire Company's application for a CDBG would compete with the Township's applications for grant money since the Township and a Township non-profit never before applied for the same funding. The Committee unanimously directed Staff to assist the LaMott Fire Company and to provide the information it is requesting.

12. Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a Resolution honoring John F. Washington, Sr. for his contributions to the Ogontz Fire Company. Said Resolution was presented as a surprise to Mr. Washington at the Fire Company's banquet on April 4, 2009.

13. **Under New Business:** Mr. Swavola inquired about red foxes that residents in his area are seeing. Chief Norris reported that it is a Township-wide problem. Animal Control has cleaned out a few nests.

14. **Under Citizens' Forum:** Loretta Leader, 542 W. Glenside Avenue, asked about the status of the EMS substation on Church Road, which is occupying a residential property. She thought that said premises was being used only during the Routs 309 reconstruction. Ms. Leader was informed that the house is owned by Arcadia University (AU), which is donating the property to EMS and, as a result, response time to the west side of the Township has been reduced to from 8-minutes to 4-minutes. The Township only pays the electric bill. Ms. Leader did not feel that an ambulance parked outside a residential property was particularly attractive.

Mr. Sharkey noted that he has suggested some improvements to the property. Mr. Hellendall responded that a meeting is schedule next week with AU.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned, and the Commissioners commenced an Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.



David G. Kravnik
Township Manager

per Anna Marie Felix



PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST
Public Affairs Committee, 7 p.m.
Public Safety Committee, 7:30 p.m.
Building and Zoning Committee, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, April 7, 2009
Township Building

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL/TELEPHONE
JESSE N. CIVELLO	148 MOUNT PARMER AVENUE, GLENDIDE PA, 19038	jcivello@verizon.net
T. T. Dunn	135 Webster Ave	dunntraerie@ yahoo.com
A. Hayward	443 Rico Mill	wonder@ad.com
Mary Beth Carroll	123 Rico Mill Rd	MBCarroll@aol.com

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM, CHAPTER 285 THEREOF, ENTITLED VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, BY AMENDING PARKING METER ZONES AND 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:

SPRING AVENUE (17) NO PARKING, south side, Elkins Avenue to 40 feet west.

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 **21st day of April, A.D., 2009.**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM

By _____
Paul R. Greenwald, President

ATTEST: _____
David G. Kraynik, Secretary

