

March 2, 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; Kenneth Hellendall, EMS Director; David M. Lynch, Director of Engineering, Zoning and Inspections; John J. Norris, Chief of Police; Kevin O'Brien, Deputy Chief of Police; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; and David G. Kraynik, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Sharkey called the meeting to order.

1. Chief Norris reviewed his Report for the month of January, 2011.

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

2. Upon review of the Report of the Fire Marshal, Mr. Haywood asked the meaning of the per run personnel average. Mr. O'Neill responded that seven (7) was the average number of personnel available each time a fire company had a call in January, 2011.

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

3. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the EMS Director for the month of February, 2011 was accepted.

4. The Committee considered bids for a new roof for the Police Administration Building. Mr. Kraynik reviewed the bids received. The low bidder is \$27,000 under budget.

Upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, the Committee unanimously agreed to table action on this matter pending an Executive Session that has been requested by Board President Portner to discuss personnel related to the police building. Mr. Kraynik advised that there is a window of 60-days from the time the bids are opened to award or reject a contract. Said contract would have to be awarded or rejected by the April 20, 2011 meeting of the Commissioners.

[Mr. Bagley joined the meeting at this time].

5. Under Old Business: Mr. Sharkey asked for an update on an underground fire on the 100 block of Easton Road. Mr. O'Neill reported that he spoke with the PECO representative and was told that PECO's Reliability Engineering Department will investigate the matter and advise the Township. Mr. Sharkey requested that the contractor be monitored and the area cleaned up. He asked that this matter be placed on the Committee's April agenda for follow-up.

6. Under New Business:

a. The Committee discussed traffic signals and concerns of residents in the 100 block of Waverly Road, Wyncote. Ms. Hampton reported that she held a community meeting in January to hear the concerns' of residents in this respect, which include a high traffic volume; residents cannot exit their driveways in the morning; accidents; Waverly Road being used as a cut-thru; and a 4-way Stop Sign at Waverly Road and Glenside Avenue that appears to be problematic. Some residents' potential solutions included: making Waverly Road one-way; a "Do Not Enter" restriction at peak times; a "No Left Turn" onto Waverly Road; removal of the 4-way Stop Sign; a 4-way Stop Sign at Hewett Road and Glenside Avenue; a left turn signal on Rices Mill Road, which could detract people from turning onto Waverly Road; residents believe that motorists discovered Waverly Road as a cut-thru as a result of the Glenside Avenue bridge construction project several years ago. She felt some residents' solutions might be considered as part of a pilot program, if feasible.

Mr. Sharkey stated that every section of the Township has problematic streets, and experience has shown that sometimes a remedy for one street creates a problem on another street, resulting in the problems being relocated elsewhere. He asked that Chief Norris provide a report.

Chief Norris addressed the Committee and reported that his department evaluated the residents' suggestions, and he reported as follows:

- The Highway Safety Unit investigated the traffic volume on the 100 block of Waverly Road
- A review of various PennDOT regulations
- The results of a traffic count show that the raw data does not meet PennDOT's criteria
- The results of a physical count does not meet PennDOT's guidelines
- The suggestion for making Waverly Road one-way could result in the traffic moving to Hewett Road, and the playground can be problematic
- The Stop Sign at Rices Mill and Waverly Roads exists due to the high accident count at that intersection, and recent studies show that 66% of the cars going north on Waverly Road and Hewett Road come over Waverly Road to Rices Mill Road, cross Rices Mill Road and go north. Therefore, the Stop Sign should not be removed
- The Stop Sign at Waverly Road and Glenside Avenue is the result of a sight distance problem for residents from the north exiting onto Glenside Avenue. One-way streets were considered but the residents could not agree which streets would be one-way so a Stop Sign was agreed upon. To do away with that sign would increase the speed on Glenside Avenue
- The Township has numerous cut-thru streets. Waverly Road averages 800 vehicles a day, and some other streets average in the thousands per day
- The Police Department asked LTAP (Local Traffic Assistance Program), which is an independent engineering firm that works with PennDOT, to help advise the Police Department with the residents' concerns. LTAP has all of the data to review and has not yet responded with recommendations
- The intersection at Hewett Road and Glenside Avenue does not meet PennDOT's accident rate criteria and could possibly increase speeding on Glenside Avenue and increase traffic on Hewett Road
- Hewett Road and Waverly Road are main streets and a lot of the traffic is from Township residents going to Easton Road. Left turn restrictions at Rices Mill and Waverly Roads and at Glenside Avenue and Waverly Road would prevent residents from using the smaller streets
- Restricting turns would prohibit residents from using Waverly Road to get to Hewett Road and the other streets. It will be difficult for residents to get around their neighborhood. People will have to use Hewett Road and make that street heavy with traffic, which could result in relocating the problem

- Regarding the residents' suggestion to closing the road, Chief Norris advised residents that they would have to assume full responsibility for the maintenance of the road since the Township would lose Liquid Fuels funding to maintain it.

It was Chief Norris' recommendation to increase enforcement, which has proven to be an effective method of control in other neighborhoods, until LTAP submits its recommendations.

Traffic is a universal problem among all municipalities. Many of the neighbors' suggestions would just move the problems off of Waverly Road and onto other streets in the neighborhood.

Mr. McKeown noted the traffic volume through the small narrow streets in Cheltenham Village has always been an issue. The east side of the Township has tried for years to take action with the traffic going through the village. Mr. Simon asked about traffic-calming measures such as bump-outs at the intersections to discourage traffic. Chief Norris reported that they are very expensive, and would have to be in accordance with PennDOT's policy.

Ms. Hampton asked about possible repercussions if the Township did not adhere to PennDOT regulations. Chief Norris reported that if there was an accident or injury as a result, it opens the Township to lawsuits.

Mr. Sharkey stated that he was informed by a municipality that installed speed bumps, which are not in accordance with PennDOT regulations, that the residents regret it because the kids are using them for skateboarding ramps, they have increased motorist rage, resulting in motorists blowing their horns at all hours, and have ended up being a community detriment.

There were comments from the public:

Timothy Terry, 120 Waverly Road, a resident for over 15 years, stated that motorists discovered Waverly Road as a cut-thru during the Glenside Avenue bridge construction project. It was the last stop before the bridge construction, and motorists had to turn left onto Waverly Road, and that is how Waverly Road got discovered as a convenient cut-thru. Residents would like to make Waverly Road a less convenient cut-thru and suggested a left turn signal at Greenwood and Glenside Avenues and a left turn signal and lane at Glenside Avenue and Rices Mill Road, which would be costly. Therefore, he felt that to discourage people from making a left hand turn from Glenside Avenue onto Waverly Road a "no left turn designation" or a "no left turn designation at certain times" could have a potential impact and should be tried.

Joe Podraza, 107 Waverly Road, stated that residents are frustrated with a negative response to suggestions without any real effort to try to solve this. His car as well as neighbors' cars have been hit. He supported Mr. Terry's suggestion. The neighbors want some relief during the early morning and evening hours.

Lisa Terry, 120 Waverly Road, suggested a "Do Not Enter" sign at certain evening hours at Waverly and Hewett Roads in each direction. She felt this would alleviate the traffic on Hewett Road also. The only people taking the road will be the residents in the 400 block of Hewett Road.

Mark Brodsky, 117 Waverly Road, a 22-year resident, asked that some of the residents' suggestions be reconsidered like the second Stop Sign at Glenside Avenue.


Kay Gallagher, 2 Waverly Road, stated she lived there for 45-years and was a resident when the neighbors requested a Stop Sign at Waverly Road and Glenside Avenue. This is an important traffic restriction to the residents who live on the north side of Glenside Avenue. She did not want it eliminated.

Mr. Sharkey suggested that the Police Department continue with its enforcement until recommendations are received from LTAP. He asked that one (1) resident be the liaison with the Police Department. When a final report is available, the matter will be placed on the agenda again.

b. Mr. McKeown noted that there have been several changes at the Police Department since 911 dispatch was moved to the county. He suggested that the Commissioners tour the Police Building. It was Mr. Sharkey's opinion that the Commissioners should tour all the facilities.

c. Mr. Swavola asked that the intersection of Woodlawn Avenue and Surrey Road be evaluated by the Highway Safety Unit for a possible Stop Sign as per residents' request.

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

  
David G. Kravnik  
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix



**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, March 2, 2011**  
**Curtis Hall**

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