

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on May 6, 2015 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, KALINOSKI, BOWMAN (7:01 p.m.)
Excused: FARREN, SR.

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Fire Marshal CLARK
Chief of Police KELLY
Traffic Safety Officer FREED

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, GILLESPIE, HECKER, MYERS, SPIEGELMAN, JONES, JR., SANCHEZ

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0

Police Department Report:

Chief Kelly gave an informational power point presentation on crime statistics. From 1960 to 1990, the U.S. population increased 12.9% each decade and violent crime increased by 152% per decade with the murder rate increasing 28.1% per decade.

Crime dramatically reduced from 1990 to 2010 and, during that time period, the population increased 12.2% per decade and violent crime rate dropped 22.35% per decade and the murder rate also dropped by 24.45% per decade. So from 1960 to 2010, violent crime rate went up by a staggering 455% and the murder rate went up by 84.3%.

From 1990 to 2010, violent crime rate went down by 44.7% and the homicide rate went down by 48.9%.

From 2010 to 2013, the numbers still went in the right direction in both violent crime and murders.

In 2013, there were 769,000 less violent crimes in our country and there were over 9,000 fewer murders that occurred in our country. So obviously, our criminal justice system is working well and we are much safer as a society than we were 20 years ago.

The significance of these statistics is that we are 49.7% less likely to be a victim of violent crime than in 1990 and murder has gone down by more than 52.1%. Murder and violent crime was approximately twice as great in 1990 as it is today.

Impact upon Black Americans from 1960 to 1990; murders among Black Americans increased from 4,388 to 12,144-an increase of 27.9% or an average of 92% per decade, and from 1990 to 2013, the number of murders of Black Americans went down from 12,144 to 6,261 – a reduction of 48.4%. In 2013, 5,883 fewer African American citizens died from homicide than in 1990.

Locally, the 24-Hour Relay Challenge will be held soon as well as next month will begin the June Traffic Safety Blitz.

Ordinance No. 2096 – To Amend Chapter 156 (“Vehicles and Traffic”), Article III – (“Parking Regulations”), Section 28 – (Special Purpose Parking Zones)

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Ordinance No. 2096 amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article III (Parking Regulations), Section 28 – (Special Purpose Parking Zones).

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for clarification as to where this ordinance applies.

Commissioner Kline replied Board Action Forms are posted on Township website that includes all information on agenda items.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Ordinance No. 2099 – To Amend Chapter 156 (“Vehicles and Traffic”), Article III – (“Parking Regulations”), Section 25 “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here to Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping or Standing” and Section 28 - (Special Purpose Parking Zones)

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to advertise Ordinance No. 2099 amending Chapter 156 (“Vehicles and Traffic”), Article III – (“Parking Regulations”), Section 25 “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here to Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping or Standing” and Section 28 - (Special Purpose Parking Zones) for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on June 11, 2015.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Acceptance of Bid for Purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to authorize Township officials to award bid to Witmer Public Safety Group of Coatesville, PA for purchase of eighty (80) NFPA 1981-2013 compliant MSA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. Witmer’s bid amount is \$451,040.00.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked in what situations are these pieces of equipment used?

Fire Marshal Clark replied they are used by firefighters in various types of hazardous atmospheres.

In July 2014, this Board accepted 2013 Assistance to Firefighter Grant in the amount of \$440,000. The grant was for the purchase of 80 – Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, SCBA’s commonly referred to as air packs.

Right now, the Township Fire Department has 120 air packs that are carried on the Department's apparatus. Once the Board approved the acceptance of the grant, the Chiefs of the Department formed a committee to evaluate at least four manufacturers of air packs.

The committee of firefighters met separately with each air pack manufacturer. Most of the manufacturer's left a sample of their air pack with us. The sample air pack made its way to each station and was evaluated by the firefighters in that station. The Fire Chiefs then drafted specifications for bidding purposes based on their firefighter's evaluations of the air packs. This project took place over a period of several months.

In early 2015, the Chiefs, after completing their research, then developed specifications, and asked that the Abington Township Fire Department advertise for bids for the purchase of 80 air packs.

Bids were opened on March 26, 2015 and reviewed by the Chiefs. After careful review, it was determined that the MSA SCBA was the only SCBA that met all specifications. Therefore, the Chiefs are recommending that the bid be awarded to Witmer Public Safety Group for 80 MSA SCBA's air packs in the amount of \$451,040.00. 10% match and the additional \$11,040 will be covered by the individual five fire companies.

Commissioner Kline clarified that three other companies listed were less expensive. Was that because they did not meet all of the specs?

Fire Marshal Clark replied yes.

Solicitor Clarke added that not only did they not meet the specifications, but their bids were defective and noncompliant.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any general comments relating to Public Safety.

Traffic Safety Officer Freed announced that next month will be time for the Traffic Safety Blitz and yard signs will be available in two weeks.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels the "safety of the residents of the Colonade will be effected because code was not followed."

Public Safety Committee Meeting

May 6, 2015

ADJOURNMENT: 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

sev