

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, BOWMAN, SPIEGELMAN, KALINOSKI

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Legal Counsel GALLAGHER
Fire Marshal CLARK
Chief of Police KELLY
Deputy Chief LIVINGOOD
Traffic Safety Officer FREED
Emergency Management Administrator MCANENEY
Community Director STROTHER

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, MYERS, SANCHEZ, HECKER, GILLESPIE, ROTHMAN, MARKMAN

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2016 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Police Department Report:

Chief Kelly said it has been requested by the Public Safety Committee for an ongoing update on the administration of Naloxone in the Township.

Deputy Chief Livingood reported that during the month of March 2016, Narcan has been administered once, and in another instance, the patient came to prior to the administration of Narcan.

Rich Garrett, Assistant Chief of Operations of Second Alarmers, reported in March 2016, Narcan was administered eight times on separate occasions. YTD, it has been administered 12 times. We will continue to track it for the committee.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline asked about those who have needed Narcan repeatedly.

Mr. Garrett replied there has been one or two in the past year; however, there may be more, but it is not something we track on a regular basis.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether the repeaters can be tracked.

Mr. Garrett replied he will look into it.

Chief Kelly continued that Emergency Management Administrator, Tom McAneney, who will advise the Board on something that will impact the budget.

Mr. McAneney reported that in regards to the historic snowstorm of January 22-23, 2016, when more than 30 inches of snow fell on the entire east coast during the course of a weekend, all clean up occurred on overtime.

On March 23, 2016, the President signed a Disaster Declaration for Southeastern Pennsylvania so that we are now eligible to apply for Federal disaster funds.

During that storm, the Township spent approximately \$268,000 in labor, materials and equipment, and under the Disaster Declaration, the Township will be able to recover a minimum of 75%, which equates to about \$200,000.

Commissioner Kline questioned how the amount of \$268,000 will be funded between now and when funds are received from FEMA.

Manager LeFevre replied we did allocate additional funding for snow removal this year, but it will depend on what December brings and how it will impact the budget.

However, when this revenue comes in, we will be in a good position to improve expenditures over budgeted amount.

Chief Kelly noted Traffic Safety Officer Freed has updates on new traffic safety measures.

Traffic Safety Officer Freed reported that there is a new yard sign that will be part of our next traffic safety blitz with the slogan that was proffered by Officer Gillespie that says, "Kids At Play, Drive That Way," and we partnered with CAPT (Citizens and Police Together) in getting the signs out to residents to post for the next safety blitz.

Also, the signs are old and we have used the same design for the past 10 years, so we sent out a letter to officials of the Abington School District, and if they agree, we would like to run a contest in May between the elementary schools on coming up with a design for the yard sign and then decide on the winner in June and award that student who has the winning design at their school assembly before the end of the school year. We hope to have that sign made and distributed in August for the September traffic safety blitz.

Commissioner Kalinoski added that some of the money raised by the 24-Hour Relay Challenge will be used for these signs.

Chief Kelly announced that on Friday, April 22, 2016, will be the PAL Comedy Show at the Keswick Theater.

Also, on April 26, 2016 at 6 p.m. the County Victims Services Center will be coming to Abington Township to hold their Annual Homicide Visual honoring victims and police officers who lost their lives due to violent crimes that will be held out front of the Police/Fire Memorial of the Township Building.

On April 27, 2016 at 7 p.m. will be the Citizens Police Academy graduation at the Public Safety Training Center. Also, on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 7 p.m. will be the D.A.R.E. graduation to be held at the Junior High School.

Ken Davidson, Assistant Chief of Second Alarmers, said we had the privilege of having our ambulance at the Edge Hill Firehouse since 2007, and at that time, it was a temporary arrangement. It is nine years later, and we have been trying to focus on improving service to that area, so we looked at our neighbor Upper Dublin that borders Abington Township where we feel we could house the ambulance 24-hours a day and that would enable us to improve response times in both communities in the evening hours.

We wanted to give officials of the Edge Hill Fire Company as much notice as possible as we value our relationship with them. This move is in preliminary stage working with officials of Upper Dublin and moving in the near future to be able to realign coverage of areas picking up the call volume needed for the truck to run 24/7.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kalinoski asked how many Second Alarmer services there are in Abington?

Mr. Davidson replied there are a total of five stations in the area, three of them primarily serving Abington.

Ordinance No. 2115 – To Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 “Stop Intersections;” and Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article III “Parking Regulations” Section 26 “Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to adopt Ordinance No. 2115 amending Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 “Stop Intersections;” and Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article III “Parking Regulations” Section 26 “Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours” for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on April 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Spiegelman thanked Traffic Safety Officer Freed for his assistance as this motion includes the new time restricted parking on the 1100 block of Grovania Avenue.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Ordinance No. 2118 – 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”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise Ordinance No. 2118 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” for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on May 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Conditional Appointment – Probationary Police Officer

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint candidate Alex Levy from the Certified Civil Service Eligibility List to the position of Probationary Police Officer provided he successfully completes the Background, Physical and Psychological tests and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission for Act 120 Training. Appointment will be effective May 2, 2016.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

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

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels “green space is being removed in favor of tanks and she also feels replacing valuable trees that absorb hundreds of gallons of water cannot be done with a rain barrel.”

ADJOURNMENT: 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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