

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:00 p.m.

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

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Fire Marshal CLARK
Chief of Police KELLY
Deputy Chief LIVINGOOD
Community Director STROTHER

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2016 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Second Alarmers Rescue Squad receives American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Recognition Award

Commissioner Schreiber recognized the Command Staff of the Second Alarmers along with Paramedic John Hill, Paramedic Alicia Bushman and EMT Grant Rounds, who were present this evening and who received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifelong EMS Gold Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experienced severe heart attacks.

She read a press release from James Jollis, M.D., Chairman of the Mission Lifeline Advisory Working Group, who said the following about the role of the Second Alarmers:

"Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can shave precious minutes of life-saving treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals. We applaud Second Alarmers for achieving this award that shows it meets evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks."

Anthony McGrail, Battalion Chief of the Second Alarmers, said a few years ago, the American Heart Association realized that heart attacks are one of the biggest problems we have in the country and also realized that EMS, hospitals and those in the community play a part.

So the focus over the last five years has been community education, EMS education and working together with officials from hospitals to increase survivability from heart attacks.

In the past three years, the Mission Lifeline Program was set up where any EMS squad can submit their statistics and bronze, silver or gold awards are given based on the level the success. Based on our statistics, times, parameters and relationship with officials of Abington Hospital and the community, we were awarded the gold status and we hope that continues.

Commissioner Schreiber commended the Second Alarmers on their achievement of the Lifelong EMS Gold Award.

Police Department Report:

Deputy Chief Livingood reported that in regards to the robbery of the 7-Eleven in North Hills; this was the third robbery at that same location over several months. The previous two robberies were committed by the same individual and that person has been arrested and has no connection to this latest crime. We are working very diligently on it and due to neighbor concerns, a meeting will be held next Monday night at the Edge Hill Fire House to address some of their concerns and provide an update on that crime.

For the past month, we have been engaged in a hiring process, which is done in-house, and following a written test, candidates are narrowed down and then they are required to take a physical agility test and the next step is an oral interview. It is time-consuming, but it is a worthwhile process. We interviewed about 105 people in a three-week time period, and as a result, this past Thursday night the Civil Service Commission certified a list.

Traffic Safety Officer Freed reminded everyone that it is June 1st, which begins the Safety Traffic Blitz and please contact your Commissioner or his office for lawn signs.

First Conditional Appointment Probationary Police Officer

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint candidate Joseph Marrero from the Certified Civil Service Eligibility List to the position of Probationary Police Officer provided he successfully completes the Background, Physical and Psychological test and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officer's Education and Training Commission for Act 120 Training effective July 11, 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.

Second Conditional Appointment Probationary Police Officer

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint candidate Robert Steck from the Certified Civil Service Eligibility List to the position of Probationary Police Officer provided he successfully completes the Background, Physical and Psychological test and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officer's Education and Training Commission for Act 120 Training effective July 11, 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.

Third Conditional Appointment Probationary Police Officer

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to appoint candidate Daniel Brown from the Certified Civil Service Eligibility List to the position of Probationary Police Officer provided he successfully completes the Background, Physical and Psychological test and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officer's Education and Training Commission for Act 120 Training effective July 11, 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.

2016 Sergeant's Test

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to authorize up to \$25,000 from Contingency Funds to cover the cost of the 2016 Sergeant's test.

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.

Ordinance No. 2119 – To Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 “Stop Intersections” and 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 adopt Ordinance No. 2119 (attached) amending Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 14 “Stop Intersections” and 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 June 9, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Hecker commented that a portion of this agenda item involves installing “Stop” signs on Rockwell Road and this represents another step in the process of making Rockwell safer for pedestrians. Sidewalks have also been installed and he has heard nothing but positive commentary from residents. He is deeply grateful to the Board, Police Department and Township staff for working with him and Commissioners Luker and Spiegelman over the past few months to bring this to reality.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Ordinance No. 2120 – To Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 9 “One Way Highways Established” Section 9.1 “Do-Not-Enter Signs” and 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” Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise Ordinance No. 2120 (attached) amending Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 9 “One Way Highways Established” Section 9.1 “Do-Not-Enter Signs” and 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” Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones” for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on July 14, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Hecker thanked Traffic Safety Officer Freed as part of this involves parking-related issues at Overlook Elementary School on Old Welsh Road. Making clear where the parking zones are in this area will increase safety for children walking to school and also for morning and afternoon pick-up and drop-off.

Traffic Safety Officer Freed noted that listed in the Board Action Request form for this item are the stop signs listed for the locations on Grisdale Avenue and all three of those intersections are not controlled at this time and have no “Stop” signs at all, so the warrants for putting them in are a lot more lenient as opposed to a four-way “Stop” sign.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Emergency Generator Connection to Abington Junior High School Gymnasium into a Township Warming Center in the event of widespread power outages

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to authorize up to \$13,000 from Contingency Funds to cover the cost of electrical upgrades needed to convert the Abington Junior High School Gymnasium into a Township Warming Center in the event of widespread power outages.

Commissioner Schreiber called on Mr. Tom McAneney, Emergency Management Administrator.

Mr. McAneney gave a power point presentation on the ice storm of 2014 when every home as well as critical infrastructures lost power with the exception of a small pocket in Glenside for 24-hours to six days. Following the storm, we identified that one of the capabilities that the Township lacks is a warming center during a widespread power outage. Although we were able to direct people to the hospital and the mall, it was a momentary solution.

Currently, the School District is in the process of upgrading its junior high's generator system and officials contacted us to see if we want to pay for transfer switches and wiring to be put in to make their gymnasium a warming center for a cost of \$12,978.00, so that we would have a warming center in case of another widespread power outage.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether it would be a 24-hour operation or would it be for daytime use only.

Mr. McAneney replied generally, warming centers are a daytime operation and residents would go home at night. We do not want to get into the 24-hour shelter business, which is something the Red Cross provides, but if we had to, we could operate it 24-hours a day.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked if the Red Cross wanted to use that warming center as one of their 24-hour operations could that be arranged.

Mr. McAneney replied the Red Cross would need to enter into an agreement with the School District, although the Red Cross has specific parameters as to the locations of their operations.

Commissioner Kline asked what generator will be used?

Mr. McAneney replied our trailer generator has the correct capacity of kilowatts, but does not have the voltage needed. We would need to rent a generator and the cost is in the range of \$700 per week. If a big storm was on the horizon, we would need to reserve it.

Commissioner Kline asked if the warming center was up and running during a storm, would it be restricted to just Abington residents.

Mr. McAneney replied we would need to work with officials of the School District on a Memorandum of Understanding. If we are controlling the center we can keep to just Abington residents as opposed to opening it to a regional shelter. Although, we would not turn people away in their hour of need, but at the same time, we would not bring in everyone in from the five town area.

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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, commented that she previously questioned whether there is a system in place for those living in high rises when there is an emergency.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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