

## **Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting**

**Public Health & Safety Committee Members:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Charles M. Whiting, Commissioner R. Samuel Valenza, Commissioner Nicolas O. Scull, S. Michael Murphy, Chief of Police

### **Announcements and Presentations**

- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting called the meeting to order following the conclusion of the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting, Commissioners Valenza and Scull, and Chief Murphy. Also present: David A. Dodies, Township Manager, and Jennifer Prior, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - November 26, 2018:** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports - November and December 2018:**
  - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Report: Chief Murphy reviewed statistics and provided the following updates:
    - Two new Police Officers completed background checks and were appointed to the Police Department by the Board of Commissioners at the January 7, 2019 Regular Meeting.
    - K-9 Officer Rems and his K-9 Partner Max recently finished patrol training at Penn Vet Working Dog Group and graduated on December 4, 2018.
    - Officers attended a dim light and low light fire arms training at the Montgomery County Range. Police supervisors and command staff attended a DVIT Police Liability seminar. Officers attended Certified Information Security Management training offered by the Department of Health and a crisis intervention training offered by the Montgomery County Emergency Services. An Officer In Command attended basic supervisor training and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing instructor training.
    - The CrimeReports.com internet portal lists all uniform crime reporting (UCR) activities that occur on a monthly basis in the Township.
    - The prescription drug drop box is located in the Police lobby and is accessible 24 hours a day.
      - Commissioner Valenza inquired about Mission Kids. Chief Murphy stated that it is an organization that works with criminal justice agencies who conduct in depth interviews in a setting that is comfortable for children using specially trained professionals. Reliable information is difficult to obtain from children, especially in abuse cases. Officers are also provided with Mission Kids interview training.
  - B. Department of Emergency Services:
    - Commissioner Whiting introduced new Chief Lee Perlmutter of the Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Perlmutter stated that there are new goals to increase membership and anyone interested in serving can call 215-659-7633. He thanked the Committee for the purchase of the new ladder truck.

**Upper Moreland Township  
Committees Meetings  
January 28, 2019 - Meeting Minutes**

- Chief Perlmutter stated that half of all fires occur at night when everyone is asleep. He presented the monthly safety tip: "close bedroom doors before going to bed". A closed door prevents smoke, heat and gases from entering the room and provides a person extra seconds and minutes to escape a burning building. He stated that a closed door is not substitute for a smoke detector. Smoke detectors should be located on each floor; inside and outside each room of the house. Assistance is available to anyone who is unable to afford a smoke detector by calling 215-659-7633.
- Commissioner Whiting thanked everyone who contributed and the Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company for collecting perishable and non-perishable items that were donated to the Philadelphia and Cape May Cost Guard families affected by the government shutdown.

C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad: Ken Davidson, Assistant Chief, provided statistics and the following updates from November and December 2018:

- Fund raising continues and more information can be found by calling 215-659-1885 or visiting the website at [www.sars.org](http://www.sars.org).
- For 2019, Abington Township increased funding to Second Alarmer's to \$130,000 a year.
- For 2019, Upper Dublin Township increased funding to Second Alarmer's to \$25,000 a year.
- For 2019, Whitpain Township increased Second Alarmers funding to \$30,000 a year.
- Considerable debt remains unresolved and residents with outstanding EMS balances are encouraged to contact the SARS office to arrange for payments.
  - Commissioner Valenza suggested petitioning First-Class Townships, Second-Class Townships and boroughs at the State level to garnish support and advocate that they are a necessary component to public safety. Mr. Davidson stated that SARS signs up yearly for direct payments; however, current legislation allows insurance companies to be selective with paying for services.

V. **Old Business:**

- A. The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners at their Regular Meeting on February 4, 2019, the approval to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Traffic Signal Improvements at the intersection of Davisville and Terwood Roads.
- B. The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners at their Regular Meeting on February 4, 2019, the approval to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Traffic Signal Improvements at the intersection of Davisville and Byberry Roads, related to the construction of the new Willow Grove YMCA.
- C. The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners at their Regular Meeting on February 4, 2019, approval to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for a new Traffic Signal at the main entrance of the new Willow Grove YMCA development at Davisville Road.
  - Mr. Dodies stated that these signals are related to the construction of the new Willow Grove YMCA. Items A and B are existing signals and Item C is a new signal. The Township will own the permit and be responsible to maintain the operations of these signals. McMahon Associates has reviewed all design work and confirmed that the

applications are in accordance with the Township's plans for development at these intersections.

- Commissioner Valenza inquired on the funding source for the signals. Mr. Dodies stated that the YMCA will pay for the installation and construction of the new signal at the main entrance of the YMCA and for improvements at Davisville and Terwood Roads. A Green Light Go grant, received by the Township, will pay for the signal improvements at Davisville and Byberry Roads, and the maintenance of all signals will be Township's responsibility.
- The Committee directed Township Solicitor to draft resolutions for consideration by the Board of Commissioners at the Regular Meeting on February 4, 2019.

**VI. New Business:**

**A. Request for Handicapped Parking Space at 250 Dallas Road:**

- The Committee directed the Township Solicitor to draft a resolution for consideration by the Board of Commissioners at their Regular Meeting on February 4, 2019, designating space adjacent to 250 Dallas Road for handicapped parking only.

**VII. Other Items - Nothing to report.**

**VIII. Visitor Comments:**

- Barbara, a resident of Summit Avenue, requested that a "No Parking" street sign be posted in front of the fire hydrant at the corner of Summit Avenue and Route 611, on the side of St. David's Church. She stated that is a safety issue when people park in front of the hydrant, and she reported the sign to two Upper Moreland Police Officers, and Commissioners Lavelle and Scull. Barbara cited Pennsylvania Statute 75, Section 3353, Prohibition at Specific Places and the Pennsylvania Drivers Manual regarding rules on parking at fire hydrants.
  - Chief Murphy stated that he will direct a Traffic Safety Officer to meet Barbara at the location and evaluate the Summit Avenue signage on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 9 a.m.
  - Commissioner Spearing clarified that the fire hydrant is irrelevant to the signage posted in front of the hydrant.

**IX. Commissioner Comments - Nothing to report.**

**X. Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Kristire.