

Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting

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

- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Chair Whiting called the meeting to order following the conclusion of the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Chair Whiting; Commissioners Valenza and Scull; and Chief Murphy. Absent: David A. Dodies, Township Manager. Also present: Randall Schaible, Director of Finance and Assistant Township Manager representing David A. Dodies, in his absence, and Jennifer Prior, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - February 26, 2018:** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Report - Chief Murphy reviewed statistics and provided the following updates:
 - Probationary Police Officer Layla Cruz' first day was February 19, 2018. Officer Cruz has completed two weeks of training and familiarization and was assigned to her first FTO rotation.
 - The first evolution of firearms training was completed by the Department at the County Range located in Conshohocken, PA.
 - Congratulated Administrative Sergeant Kelly Ruddell for completing an executive level training program at the School of Police Staff & Command from Northwestern University.
 - An increase in auto thefts is a regional-wide, significant problem and has prompted the creation of a local task force.
 - Residents can register on "crimereports.com" to obtain a snapshot of recent police activity.
 - Prescription drug drop box, located in the Police lobby, is accessible 24 hours per day.
 - Drug Enforcement Authority is sponsoring "Drug Take Back Day" on April 28, 2018.
 - Mr. Warner inquired on vehicle types prone to theft. Chief Murphy stated that there are no specific types of cars targeted and commented that they are not disassembled but being shipped out of the area.
 - Mr. Warner commented on "Parking Violations Citations/Warnings" and requested that the Police increase monitoring and reporting issues.
 - Chief Murphy stated that the School Safety Symposium held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 was well attended and an important community event.
 - B. Department of Emergency Services - Nothing to report.
 - C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad - Captain Ken Davidson reviewed statistics and provided the following updates:
 - The GPS and EVL dispatch focus groups are working to equip all ambulances with computers.
 - A dual alert dispatch pilot program was started by the County to eliminate delayed

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response to emergencies and feedback is pending from the Ambulance Association.

- Blue Bell Rotary is hosting their annual breakfast on April 15, 2018, to benefit Second Alarmers and 100% of the proceeds are donated to the Second Alarmers Association.
- Willow Grove charities and businesses, along with Kremp Florists, are hosting "Taste of Willow Grove on April 15, 2018, which provides support to the Association.
- A Career Fair will be held at The Eastern Center on March 22, 2018 hosted by Representative Thomas Murt's office.
- Legislation is in the Senate (Bill 654) and House (Bill 1501) to enforce addiction and mental health treatment programs within 30 days for patients who suffer overdosing. More treatment agencies are available, however, there is a disconnect in communicating their services.
 - Chief Murphy stated that there is legislation being considered that reduces the response time to seek treatment within 10 days. If patients do not comply, they waive their immunity from prosecution. Capitan Davidson clarified pending legislation that states a treatment type must be prescribed with a court ordered jurisdiction.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented that he attended a DARA conference last week where they discussed the legislation in regard to the "Good Samaritan Law" with emphasis on treatment within 30 days.
 - Commissioner Scull inquired on patients' commitment to a treatment program. Chief Murphy stated that there is no legislation that stipulates patients' commitment to a treatment program and there is no differentiation between second, third or fourth offenses. However, amendments are made to the legislation, but it is a very slow process.
 - Louise D'Alessandro, 1480 Creek Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA, stated that her son Casey O'Donnell is head of Impact Services in Kensington where an overdose victim is offered immunity if they are immediately admitted to a treatment center. Captain Davidson stated that they always plan to admit victims directly to a treatment center and explained that it is optional for victims and difficult to compel them to accept further care without any mandated follow up by an agency.

V. Old Business:

A. Update by Chief Murphy on Compliance with Parking Ordinance – Ward 1 and Ward 2:

- Commissioner Spearing discussed the Ward 2 parking issues and stated that he is in favor of all the draft recommendations by the Police Department.
- Chief Murphy requested that Commissioner Spearing provide a specific list of any additional parking issues to include for submission to the Solicitor.
- Commissioner Scull reviewed a list of Ward 1 parking issues that are not in compliance with the ordinance.
- Commissioner Whiting reminded residents to contact the Commissioner assigned to their Ward with any ongoing parking issues.

VI. New Business:

A. Recommendation to specify Snow Emergency Route on Pioneer Road

- Chief Murphy stated that a section of Pioneer Road listed on the Township Map is not a posted "Snow Emergency Route". Chief Murphy stated that the Ordinance will be updated to reflect "Pioneer Road eastbound to Centennial" and the map will be changed

to correctly reflect the "Snow Emergency Route" posted with signs.

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

VIII. **Visitor Comments:**

- Louise D'Alessandro, 1480 Creek Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA, provided handouts and requested additional "no parking signs" along Creek Road. She commended the Police for their work and asked that they increase monitoring the neighborhood for parking violations and burglary issues. Commissioner Valenza will contact Ms. D'Alessandro to inspect the road area and notify effected residents. Chief Murphy stated that the recommendation is to post "no parking at any time" signs and there will be an update in the parking ordinance. Temporary signs will be posted before the Summer and new permanent signs by the Fall. Commissioner Valenza and Chief Murphy stated that residents should call 911 for any parking matters.

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Scull expressed safety concerns of pedestrians who walk to the train station through traffic and the closure of sidewalks on Davisville and York Roads due to the development of The Station at Willow Grove. Chief Murphy stated that it was PennDOT's decision and not the municipality's, and there are not many options during the demolition period. Commissioner Spearing commented that the Township applied for a permit approximately six years ago to install a crosswalk which is included in the plan; however, it will not be built prior to the completion of The Station at Willow Grove project. Commissioner Whiting asked Commissioner Scull to notify the residents of Ward 1, the inconvenience and a notice will be posted to the Township website.
- Sue Worth LaManna, a resident, commented that pedestrians will illegally cross Davisville Road at the train tracks and inquired if Police will monitor the area which was also approved by PennDOT. Commissioner Valenza stated that if you want to legally cross the road, you will need to walk to the Burger King crossing signal and then walk back up. Commissioner Spearing asked the Committee to call Representative Murt's office and Senator Greenleaf's office to report the issue. Mr. Schaible will ask Paul Purtell, Director of Code Enforcement, to contact PennDOT and identify a legal pedestrian re-route.

X. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Kristire.