

## **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

- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting called the meeting to order following the conclusion of the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 7:27 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting, Commissioner Scull, and Lieutenant Mark Drakeley. Absent: Commissioner Valenza and S. Michael Murphy, Chief of Police. Also present: David A. Dodies, Township Manager, and Jennifer Prior, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - June 18, 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: Lieutenant Drakeley provided the following updates in the absence of Chief Murphy:
    - Consortium Police Physical Fitness Tests were administered on June 2, 2018. There were 61 candidates eligible from Upper Moreland Police of which 46 were invited to the Oral Interviews to be held at the end of the month.
    - In addition to officers attending various courses throughout the area, the Transportation Safety Unit Officer attended training conducted by the Department of Transportation and Pennsylvania State Police, which now enables Upper Moreland Police to have two commercial vehicle inspectors managing the volume of commercial traffic utilizing the Turnpike interchange.
    - The Junior Police Academy Program, coordinated through the Parks & Recreation Department, was held during the week of June 25, 2018, was a success and had additional children participating this year.
    - Citizens are reminded to check bank and credit card statements for fraudulent items.
    - Prescription drug drop-box is available 24-hour a day and is located in the lobby of the Police Department.
  - B. Department of Emergency Services - Nothing additional to report.
  - C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad: Ken Davidson, Assistant Chief, reviewed the report's statistics and provided the following updates:
    - 2018-19 fundraiser is ongoing and can be accessed on their website or a packet can be requested by sending an email to: [info@main.sars.org](mailto:info@main.sars.org).
    - An ambulance was involved in a crash in June while transporting a patient; however, there were no injuries.
    - House Bill 699 was passed and was included with the budget signed by Governor Wolf. The Bill supports increasing Medicaid reimbursement for emergency medical services. SARs revenue is estimated to increase between \$50k-60k per year. Even though this is an accomplishment, Medicaid rates still fall 20% below the Medicare rates and about 70% below the cost of providing service.

**Upper Moreland Township  
Committees Meetings  
July 23, 2018 - Meeting Minutes**

- There is a need to reform EMS finances and SARs is looking to municipalities for support. The average cost per billable call is \$635.25 and the average receipts per billable call is \$515 which leaves \$120 per billable call that is not recovered. In 2017, there were 1,925 billable calls which incurred a deficit of \$231,000 for the cost of providing services over the revenue generated. In western Pennsylvania and across the country, EMS services are being eliminated due to the lack of funds.

**V. Old Business:**

- A. Compliance with Parking Ordinance to be continued on agenda pending draft ordinance submission.
- B. Proposed Ordinance Changes of Notice of Violation:
  - Commissioner Scull made a motion to table the discussion, seconded by Commissioner Whiting, to the September 24, 2018 Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting. The Committee agreed to continue a discussion on the proposed ordinance changes of a Township Notice of Violation by the Upper Moreland Township Police Department for certain offenses, repealing prior inconsistent ordinances and parts of ordinances, providing for a severability clause, and containing an effective date.
    - Lieutenant Drakeley stated that the violations do not change and this is to create a single form for officers to use that covers multiple sections of the Township Code. The purpose of the ordinance is to establish a universal fine structure across the ordinances.
    - Ms. Prior stated that fines did not increase and that the Notice of Violation was created to allow violators to respond directly to the Township rather than proceeding to the District Justice with associated costs.
    - Commissioner Spearing commented on the section regarding animals with third, fourth and fifth offenses. Lieutenant Drakeley stated that the Police Department continues to retain the right to file citations under State Law to the District Court.
    - Mr. Dodies asked the Committee to consider removing the bold, highlighted language that contains harsh consequences for offenses.
    - Don Warner, a resident of 437 Tanner Road, highly recommended leaving that language in the ordinance to make sure there is good order in the Township.
    - Ms. Prior suggested to keep the footnote's standard language relating to further penalties, costs and attorney's fees, and consider taking out the language on imprisonment.
- C. Proposed Purchase of a New Fire Truck:
  - Commissioner Spearing requested that the purchase of the new Fire Truck be moved out of Committee be considered for action at the August 6, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The Committee agreed to move the consideration for action on the purchase of the new Fire Truck to the the August 6, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
  - Mr. Dodies asked to clarify which Fire Truck purchase should be moved forward for consideration. The Committee directed Mr. Dodies to move forward for action to the August 6, 2018 Regular Meeting, the purchase of Pierce Ascendant 107' Quint Ladder Truck.

**VI. New Business:**

**A. Draft Resolution Adopting 2017 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan:**

- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners move for action at the August 6, 2018 Regular Meeting, the adoption of the 2017 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Mr. Dodies stated that Montgomery County periodically adopts a revised resolution on their hazard mitigation plan and asks all municipalities, every two years, to support their actions which, in turn, makes the Township eligible for mutual aid.

**B. Proposed use of CARFAX for the Police Program:**

- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners move for action at the August 6, 2018 Regular Meeting, the use of CARFAX for Police Program.
- Lieutenant Drakeley stated that the CARFAX service provides citizens with an electronic way to obtain motor vehicle accident Police Reports through online access with an instantaneous turnaround. Fees collected by CARFAX are reimbursed to the Police Department. The Police Department will also maintain the option for citizens to come into the office and obtain a report with a 72-hour turnaround.
  - Commissioner Scull inquired on the integrity of CARFAX's services. Lieutenant Drakeley stated that CARFAX forwards a status report each month for review by the Police Department.
  - Commissioner Spearing questioned how CARFAX benefits from a relationship with the Township. Lieutenant Drakeley stated that CARFAX collects data for consumers to be able to accurately screen used cars for accident history. There are no changes to how the Police Department will process reports or manage Right-To-Know requests. Accident Reports are not released to CARFAX until the accident investigation is completed.
  - Commissioner McFatridge commented concerns that companies like CARFAX essentially become clearing houses of data to insurance companies and attorneys who solicit consumers through unwanted phone calls.
  - Mr. Warner, a resident of 437 Tanner Road, stated that CARFAX's main business objective is to provide an accurate data bank on trade-ins to confirm whether the cars have sustained damage from any accidents.
  - Commissioner Scull commented concerns that CARFAX sells their data. Lieutenant Drakeley stated that CARFAX's selling point is to provide accurate data and he will review the Terms and Conditions of their contract.

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

**VIII. Visitor Comments - Nothing to report**

**IX. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing commended the Police Department and Parks & Recreation Department for hosting the Junior Police Academy program.
- Commissioner Spearing thanked Lieutenant Drakeley for his attendance at tonight's meeting.
- Commissioner Spearing suggested that Lieutenant Drakeley provide a presentation on issues concerning fraud to the Golden Age Club members. Lieutenant Drakeley stated that

**Upper Moreland Township  
Committees Meetings  
July 23, 2018 - Meeting Minutes**

he has made similar presentations and would be happy to accommodate the Club.

- Commissioner McFatrige thanked the Police Department for providing lane closures on short notice while moving the helicopter to Veterans Memorial Park.
- Commissioner Whiting stated that the August 20, 2018, Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting is canceled.
- Commissioner Whiting reminded the public to lock their cars.

X. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Kristire.