

**Upper Moreland Township  
Committees Meetings  
September 24, 2018 - Meeting Minutes**

**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 8:15 p.m.
- 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 - July 23, 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 provided the following updates:
    - Consortium Police Physical Fitness Tests were finished. 61 candidates were eligible from Upper Moreland Police of which 12 candidates completed the process.
    - Lieutenant Troxel and Chief Murphy attended a FBI National Academy Conference in August.
    - K-9 officers attended a K-9 liability seminar hosted by Delaware Valley Insurance Trust.
    - Several officers attended training related to alcohol, drug and intoxicated driving.
    - Detectives assisted the Cheltenham Police Department and the Montgomery County SWAT Team East in an active shooter event at the Walmart in Cheltenham.
    - Citizens are reminded to be vigilant for fraud on bank and credit card statements.
    - Prescription drug drop-box is available 24-hours a day and is located in the lobby of the Police Department.
    - Drug Enforcement Administration is hosting a Drug Take Back event on October 27, 2018.
  - B. Department of Emergency Services - Nothing to report.
  - C. Second Alarmers' Association and Rescue Squad: Ken Davidson, Assistant Chief, reviewed the report's statistics and provided the following updates:
    - 2018-19 fundraiser is progressing well and reminders will be mailed in two weeks. Donations can be accepted through the website or request a packet by emailing: info@main.sars.org.
    - Pennsylvania Township News publication has an article that discusses the financial crisis of Emergency Management Services agencies across the State.
    - SARS responded along with the Cheltenham Police Department and the Montgomery County SWAT Team East in an active shooter event at the Walmart in Cheltenham.
    - SARS responded to a small fire at a significant nursing home in Lower Moreland which

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lead to an evacuation. SARS also assisted residents with returning to the nursing home.

- Commissioner Spearing inquired if there is an apprentice program to the EMS industry. Assistant Chief Davidson stated that members can join at age 16, get training and ride in the ambulance. EMS is working with the Eastern Center and Protective Services Program in October and November to recruit members. Career staff are difficult to recruit as well. EMS works with the School District each year to recruit students to participate in a senior school project.
- Commissioner Spearing commented on Act 699 that provides some funding for Medicaid reimbursements. Assistant Chief Davidson stated that the State received an increase for the first time in 14 years which is still below Medicare payments and was estimated at \$40,000 per year in revenue. Commissioner Spearing stated that appeals should continue to State and Federal legislators for reimbursement support. Assistant Chief Davidson stated that insurance carriers should be required to provide direct payment to the EMS agencies instead of sending reimbursements to the patients who do not forward them to the EMS agencies.

**V. Old Business:**

- A. The Committee directed Township Solicitor to draft final ordinance (adding a new street) for consideration and adoption by the Board of Commissioners at their November 13, 2018 Regular meeting, amending sections 330-15 and 330-16 that prohibits parking at amended locations and times, repealing prior inconsistent ordinances and resolutions and parts of thereof, and providing for a severability clause and an effective date.
  - Mr. Dodies stated that the ordinance does not require a Public Hearing and will be advertised for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners on November 13, 2018.
- B. The Committee directed Township Solicitor to draft final ordinance for consideration and adoption by the Board of Commissioners at their November 13, 2018 Regular meeting, regarding the issuance of Notices of Violations by the Upper Moreland Police Department through various amendments to include language to allow Township to recoup costs/fees related to prosecution.
  - Chief Murphy stated that there were no provisions for a Township Notice of Violation to notice residents when they commit an ordinance offense by issuing a ticket for a reduced fine without going through a non-traffic arrest. For parts of Code, dealt with on a daily basis, a step system will advance a fine to be paid directly to the Township without using criminal prosecution through a District Court and criminal arrest through the Police Records Management System. The fines are consistent with other municipalities. If an incident continues to go unpaid, then prosecution through the District Court level will be instituted. Chief Murphy recommends the ability to recoup additional costs be added to the original fine.
  - Commissioner Spearing commented on eliminating 30-day imprisonment and suggested adding property liens for unpaid fines. Ms. Prior stated that property liens relate to costs of judgements, bills and taxes.

**VI. New Business - Nothing to report.**

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

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

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing commented on regionalization of animal control services and suggested that Abington Township's Animal Control Officer, Ron Griffith, make a presentation to the Committee. The Committee directed Chief Murphy to arrange the presentation at a future Public Health & Safety Committee meeting.

X. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Kristire.