

**Upper Moreland Township
Committees Meetings
October 15, 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 9:05 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting, Commissioners Valenza and Scull, and Lieutenant Timothy Troxel in the absence of Chief Murphy. Also present: David A. Dodies, Township Manager, and Jennifer Prior, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - September 24, 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 Troxel provided the following updates:
 - Nine candidates were presented to the Civil Service Commission on October 10, 2018 as part of the hiring process for the Police Department; background investigations on the top three candidates are being conducted.
 - Nine Officers attended various trainings throughout the month.
 - Police activities were down slightly from last month.
 - Fraud reports remain high and citizens are reminded to check on their bank, credit card and financial accounts.
 - CrimeReports.com is an internet portal that lists all uniform crime reporting (UCR) activities that occur on a monthly basis in the Township.
 - Traffic Safety Unit has been proactively enforcing school zones and bus stops.
 - Commissioner Scull stated that passing school buses with their lights flashing is the only situation in Pennsylvania where a driver can be ticketed on the observation of school bus drivers without having an Officer present.
 - Commissioner Valenza inquired on the increase of theft during the month of September and Lieutenant Troxel stated that it was related to unlocked vehicles in parking lots and neighborhoods.
 - Commissioner Valenza inquired on hazardous traffic violations and Lieutenant Troxel stated that they are related to moving violations.
 - B. Department of Emergency Services:
 - Commissioner Whiting thanked the Fire Department for holding a successful Fire Prevention Open House on October 11, 2018.
 - Lee Perlmutter, Deputy Chief of Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company, announced that a safety tip will be discussed each month at the Committee Meeting. This month's tip is on carbon monoxide and smoke detection precautions and the importance of replacing batteries of detection systems and alarms on every level of your home when

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Daylight Saving Time ends on November 4, 2018. Devices should be checked monthly and maintained based on the manufacturers' recommendations. The Fire House is available for questions and concerns Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at: 215-659-7633, or stopping by on Thursday evenings between 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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

- September's statistics were not available and will be forwarded with next month's report.
- Between 2014 to 2017 the total debt in the Township from responding to emergency calls is \$1,474,030.60. The cost to replace an ambulance is \$250,000 and there are 12 aging vehicles. The Agency is seeking to establish a steady source of revenue and, as a result, fees for services will need to be increased. Assistant Chief Davidson asked the Commissioners to support municipal funding to offset the costs.
 - Commissioner Scull inquired if Medicare contributes to costs. Assistant Chief Davidson stated that Medicare pays nationally based on a fee schedule and is not enough to cover the cost of service. Medicare pays 80% of the Medicare approved fee and supplemental insurance or the patient pays 20%. There are patients who receive payments from their insurance carriers but do not submit that payment to the SARs agency. An article in the recent publication of Pennsylvania Township News explains the impending crisis.

V. **Old Business** - Nothing to report.

VI. **New Business:**

A. The Committee directed Township Solicitor to finalize an ordinance to adopt the 2015 Edition of the International Fire Code; providing for issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore; repealing Article II Fire Prevention Code of Chapter 153, and Section 140-13, and all inconsistent ordinance, resolutions or parts thereof; and providing a severability clause and effective date. The Township Solicitor will advertise it as required by law, for consideration at the November 13, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

- Captain Fugelo recommends the ordinance to adopt the 2015 Edition of the International Fire Code. One permit was added to operational permits regarding alarm systems and fire suppression equipment to ensure that they are annually inspected and are in good working order. Changes were also added under identification of rooftop units to ensure that they are marked and coincide with units contained within buildings.
 - Commissioner Scull commented on fire suppression of the wood framed buildings of the Station At Willow Grove development. Captain Fugelo stated that five-stories of wood frame are permitted under the Building Code. They must be fully sprinklered buildings which include the roof area and parking garage.

B. Proposal for Body Worn Cameras:

- Lieutenant Troxel stated that Chief Michael Murphy obtained an estimate of \$82,315 from Watch Guard for the purchase of body cameras. A grant application will be prepared and submitted to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) that requires a 50% match from the Township. Applications will be accepted January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020. The technology can link the Officers'

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body cameras (within a radius) to synchronize with their car cameras.

- Commissioner Valenza commented on the requirement to turn off body worn cameras upon entering a home. Lieutenant Troxel stated that the State has changed the Wire Tape Law providing exemptions for Officers with body worn cameras.

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

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

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Lieutenant Troxel stated that the Police Department will be patrolling the neighborhoods on Halloween. He reminded residents to escort groups of younger children, wear reflective materials, be vigilant and aware.

X. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Kristire.