

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 25, 2008

CALL TO ORDER – Comm. Hotchkiss called a meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Moreland Township to order at 10:19 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Comm. Hotchkiss, Chairman took roll call. Present: Commissioners Lisa Romaniello and Joseph Lavalle.

Others: John Crawford, Assistant Township Manager, Catherine Harper, Township Solicitor, Thomas Nestel, III, Chief of Police and Joseph O’Neill, Director of Emergency Services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Comm. Hotchkiss accepted the minutes of the Public Health & Safety Committee meeting of January 22, 2008 into the record as submitted.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Police Department:

Chief Nestel reported for January 2008, we had a 19% increase for calls for service comparing January 2007 to January 2008 and, even though there is a 19% increase in calls for service, there was a decrease in response time with fewer police officers this year than last year. There has been an increase in narcotics arrests, public intoxication arrests and DUI arrests, and we had a 19% increase in directed patrols. Directed patrols are locations that we identified that need additional police patrol.

Department of Emergency Service:

Mr. O’Neill noted there is no loss to-date as most incidents occurred outside the district.

OLD BUSINESS:

Traffic Safety – Horsham Road:

Comm. Hotchkiss said solutions for this area were met with resistance by the residents. He asked Chief Nestel to comment on this matter.

Chief Nestel added that the 2004 report talks about relining the roadway and shows results of a traffic study. If the State determines that roadway to be properly speed posted; we would find the posted speed limit of 25 mph as incorrect. It should be 35 mph as the overwhelming majority of the traffic adheres to that speed limit. Our recommendation is to continue with the enforcement and monitor that stretch of roadway. We are also doing an analysis of vehicle crashes monthly so we can flag any directed patrol locations.

Comm. Hotchkiss said we will remove this item from the agenda.

Revised Title 7:

Chief Nestel said a lot of work was done on Title 7 and he has been reviewing it.

Safety Concerns – Woodcrest & Edgehill Roads:

Comm. Hotchkiss said the residents along with our Police Department and Public Works Dept., came up with a solution for the problem in this area. The State came back with a solution of painting lines on the road and adding a few signs. He would like to resubmit the findings of our Police Department and Public Works Dept. and he wants comments on those findings.

Twenty-six residents on Woodcrest Road signed a petition to close that road off and make it a cul-de-sac. Our Traffic Engineer did a study on closing the road, and we found we would have to remove three houses at the end of the cul-de-sac to meet our code, and that is not what we wanted to do nor did the residents want it. It is a dangerous intersection, and the State has not addressed our concerns as we are asking for a road closing. Our Public Works Dept. has found a way to get trash trucks and snow plows in/out safely with that road closed. It would be open for emergency services and vehicles of the Township, but not for the public and that is what the residents want.

Comm. Romaniello asked Chief Nestel if he has inspected this intersection.

Chief Nestel replied yes, and he feels that Lt. Robinson and Jack Snyder did a good job on the proposal for this area. The issue is a site distance problem, and it is a roadway that has tremendous potential for having a lot of accidents.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Bill Seiberlich, resident, said he lives across the street from the Upper Moreland Middle School on Orangeman's Road. There is a problem with drivers who go into his driveway and make u-turns in front of each other and there are accidents waiting to happen at dismissal time at this school.

Comm. Hotchkiss replied the school policy should be enforced with the parents and he suggested signs be placed at the school.

Chief Nestel said he is familiar with this area. This problem will not be resolved midstream during the school year. He will discuss this matter with the School District.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Comm. Spearing asked that the Horsham Road traffic safety issue remain on the agenda. It is not a State highway, and he asked about input from Montgomery County since it is county highway.

Comm. Hotchkiss said he does have information from the County. Our Traffic Engineer proposed a design of lines and striping. The residents do not want that, they want barricades. Our Traffic Engineer stated barricades are not what we want or need there.

Comm. Spearing said he asked that we speak with members of the County, and suggested additional signs for the curve and rumble strips.

Comm. Romaniello suggested sending a letter to the County to discuss this matter with Chief Nestel.

Comm. Spearing noted that at Blair Mill Road and County Line Road, there is a large culvert that is unsafe during winter weather. Vehicles slide off of the road and into this ditch.

Comm. Hotchkiss replied that Jack Snyder, Director of Public Works Dept., should be notified about this matter.

Comm. Spearing noted at Blair Mill and Edwards Roads there is a drainage problem. When working on Blair Mill Road, PennDOT created a puddle located right at the ADA curb cut that ices over and it is dangerous. There is a bus stop at this location and the children are going to get hurt. Also, at the former Robert Bruce apartments on Blair Mill Road there is trash and liter from the apartments that is unsightly and an environmental issue.

Comm. Hotchkiss directed Mr. Crawford to call the Code Enforcement Dept. to have them look into this matter.

Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting

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ADJOURNMENT: 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Elizabeth Vile