

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

*March 17, 2008*

**CALL TO ORDER** – Commissioner Hotchkiss called a meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Moreland Township to order at 8:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** – Commissioner Hotchkiss, Chairman took roll call. Present: Commissioners Joseph Lavallo and Lisa Romaniello.

Others: John Crawford, Assistant Township Manager, Josh S. Ganz, Attorney, Lt. Alex Levy, Police Department and Joseph O’Neill Director of Emergency Services.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Hotchkiss accepted the minutes of the February 25, 2008 Public Health & Safety Committee meeting into the record as submitted.

**REPORTS:**

Police Department:

Commissioner Hotchkiss noted there were 397 directed patrols, which is traffic enforcement detail such as speeding, parking, etc.

Lt. Levy added that we had a slight increase in calls and a decrease in response times and a small increase in reportable accidents.

Department of Emergency Services:

Mr. O’Neill commented there was a fire on Fitzwatertown Road with zero loss.

Commissioner Hotchkiss noted that our Director of Emergency Services conducts public education.

Mr. O’Neill added that the programs can be about smoke detectors, fire prevention, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Traffic Safety – Horsham Road:

Lt. Levy said at the request of Commissioner Spearing, the Horsham Road improvement plan is being revisited. An analysis of the crashes have been conducted and distributed to the Public Safety Committee and, after communication with a representative of the Montgomery County Roads and Bridges Department, we will prepare a written report for the committee.

Commissioner Hotchkiss commented the County could make recommendations that the residents might not like and there will be no choice.

Revised Title 7:

Lt. Levy noted that Chief Nestel has been reviewing Title 7 and has fine tuned it. It will be completed this week.

Woodcrest & Edgehill Roads:

Lt. Levy said Lt. Robinson and Jack Snyder prepared a proposal of limited access to Woodcrest, which was defined by PennDOT. PennDOT recommends that the trees be cut back, which was done and it didn't help that much. Lt Robinson has been in touch with PennDOT and they will reconsider a proposal from the Township

Commissioner Hotchkiss noted that the School District will reroute the school bus that was using that intersection. This item will remain on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Blair Mill and County Line Road:

Lt. Levy noted that Chief Nestel indicated that Jack Snyder has spoken with a representative of PennDOT and they will look into it.

Blair Mill and Edwards:

Lt. Levy noted that Chief Nestel spoke with Jack Snyder about it and it is a universal problem in which handicapped ramps have water sitting there because of the way they were constructed. They will look at them and fix the ones they can.

Mr. Crawford added that PennDOT has agreed to let the Township connect to the stormwater inlet on the right side of the stream and, any work that is done, will be paid for by the Township.

Commissioner Hotchkiss said this item will remain on the agenda.

Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Mr. O'Neill said he asked the county to consider adding to their hazard mitigation plan the flooding and drainage issues of the Township. It is important for the Township to keep a list of projects and adopt a plan so if funds become available they would look at life saving issues.

Commissioner Hotchkiss added that it is important to keep the list updated.

Approval of Sale of 1986 Fire Department Apparatus:

Mr. O'Neill asked for approval of the sale of the 1986 Fire Department apparatus to the Garrison Fire Company for a sum of \$37,500.00. The high bid was better than anticipated because based on the amount of used apparatus' on the market, age, etc. the estimated value ranged from \$25,000 to \$30,000. The Township Solicitor has agreed to write the agreement of sale and he recommends approving the sale.

Mr. Crawford said the Solicitor is preparing the agreement, and the committee can move this for action on the condition that the Solicitor provides a letter of a no warranty agreement.

The committee agreed to move it for action pending the Solicitor's letter at our next Regular Board meeting.

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

Jonathan deJonge commented that he noticed that the new Giant Supermarket has prominently displayed their address of 315 York Road. A lot more businesses and residences should do the same as it could be a safety concern. Displaying it on the curb does not help the fire department or other emergency service.

Mr. O'Neill replied address display is part of the Township code and our biggest concern is with private dwellings with no address display.

Kathy Rush, Hampton Road, asked for the policy for detouring when there is flooding.

Commissioner Hotchkiss said he and Chief Nestel have been discussing this matter, and we are in the process of deciding what signs are needed to be purchased and who will purchase them. The Police Department and Public Works Department makes the decision about barricades.

Lt. Levy added the detour routes are chosen by the last street that vehicles can turn on so we only need one person to direct traffic.

Ms. Rush asked that barricades be used on a trial basis to make a clear flow through the neighborhood.

Commissioner Hotchkiss replied barricades alone do not work without directional signs.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Romaniello commented we had a lot of incidents at Woodlawn Park, and the police are on alert. If kids are in the park after dusk when the park closes, the parents will be called. She has received calls from parents that the park hours are not properly displayed.

Lt. Levy said we can add informational signs to Woodlawn Park and we have increased patrol in that park. All parks close at dusk and ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Commissioner Romaniello asked the Manager to put the park closing information in the next newsletter.

Commissioner Spearing said regarding detours, there could be better coordination with the Public Works Dept. Regarding Blair Mill and Edwards Roads, before PennDOT overlaid Blair Mill Road without milling it, we did not have this problem. He is opposed to the Township spending money to mitigate the problem that PennDOT created.

Commissioner Valenza suggested announcing the park closing times on the Comcast and Verizon channels.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Elizabeth Vile