

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

October 8, 2007

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 8:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Comm. Hotchkiss, Chairman took roll call. Present: Commissioners Richard Booth and James McKenna.

Others: John Crawford, Assistant Township Manager, Dick Watt, Township Solicitor, and Lt. Alex Levy, Police Department. Absent: Joseph O’Neill, Director of Emergency Services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Comm. Hotchkiss approved the minutes of the Public Health & Safety Committee meeting of the September 17, 2007 into the record as submitted.

REPORTS:

Police Department Report:

Comm. Hotchkiss noted that the report indicates that the police department has stepped up its efforts in providing a safe environment for our citizens and traffic stops are up as well as citations. The good news is that accidents both reportable and non-reportable are down as compared to August. Theft and burglary still seem to be leading crime in our Township. He encouraged everyone to read the topic of the month on the Township’s website regarding theft and burglary. It is National Crime Prevention Month and the police department gives suggestions on how you can reduce becoming a victim of crime.

Lt. Levy said there was an increase in citations as a result of two grants that we received on traffic safety. One will be used for increased enforcement for Horsham Road.

Department of Emergency Services Report:

Comm. Hotchkiss reminded the residents that October is Fire Prevention Month, which is a good time to check batteries in smoke alarms and the pressure in fire extinguishers. The Fire Department had a successful Willow Grove Community Day Celebration, which is part of our 100th anniversary. He thanked Comm. Efkwitz’s husband’s company for providing two cars for the vehicle rescue demonstrations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Traffic Safety – Horsham Road – McMahon & Associates provided Township with paving marking plan (2004) – See map:

Comm. Hotchkiss asked for an explanation on this item.

Mr. Crawford replied that this problem on Horsham Road is a recurring problem and several years ago, McMahon was directed to make recommendations for traffic calming in this area. It was decided at that time not to proceed with it because of objections from residents in the area.

Comm. Crilly added that speeding traffic has been an ongoing problem along Horsham Road. The residents were engaged after this plan was developed to put together a striping plan. Former Chief Moffett was involved in creating that plan along with McMahon. We had a meeting with the residents and one of the tradeoffs was if we were to stripe the road the residents could no longer park on the street. The residents were opposed to it and were also concerned that it would lead to implementing sidewalks on Horsham Road. Striping and continued enforcement on Horsham Road are the only long term solution to calming traffic.

Comm. Hotchkiss said he believes our police department has been making every effort in keeping our residents safe. Driver responsibility is extremely hard to enforce and the police cannot be everywhere all of the time.

Comm. Crilly said discussion took place at last month's meeting about guardrails, but he is not sure guardrails are acceptable to the neighbors.

Comm. Hotchkiss said it is a county road so he is not sure if we would have authority to do that.

Comm. Crilly agreed. We would have to get permission from the County before constructing guardrails. He suggested the committee explore the possibility of a guardrail and we have to look at the cost for the Township and, if it is feasible, he can have a meeting with the residents to see if they would want it.

Mr. Crawford commented that he will contact McMahon to take another look at it and come up with a solution to include guardrails along that area.

OLD BUSINESS:

Revised Title 7:

Comm. Hotchkiss said we will continue this item until next month.

Woodcrest Road to Edge Hill Road – Safety Concerns:

Comm. Hotchkiss said PennDOT has advised us that their written opinion will be provided to the Township in the next two weeks so we will continue this item until next month.

Sexual Offender Ordinance:

Comm. Hotchkiss said we will discuss that at the next Finance & Administrative Committee meeting this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was none at this time.

There were no visitor or Commissioner comments.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Elizabeth Vile