

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

November 19, 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 7:20 p.m.

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

Others: David Dodies, Township Manager, Dick Watt, Township Solicitor, Lt. Alex Levy, representing the Police Department and Joseph O'Neill, Director of Emergency Services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Comm. Hotchkiss accepted the minutes of the October 8, 2007 Public Health & Safety Committee meeting into the record as submitted.

REPORTS:

Police Department Report:

Comm. Hotchkiss said it appears from the reports that our police officers are doing what they can to keep our Township safe. He thanked Lt. Levy for the tremendous extra effort that he has been putting forth in service to this Township as our highest ranking police officer on active duty at this time.

Department of Emergency Services:

Comm. Hotchkiss thanked Mr. O'Neill for the extra effort that his department has put in and we have received our new apparatus. When will the truck be on the street?

Mr. O'Neill replied training will commence tomorrow to get it in service and on the street.

Comm. Hotchkiss asked will the builder of the truck come to instruct the members of the operation of it?

Mr. O'Neill replied he was here this past week.

OLD BUSINESS:

Comm. Hotchkiss commented that, “It is with great excitement tonight that this Board of Commissioners introduced the newly appointed Chief of Police.

Out of respect to him and the entire police department, I have a request to make to the other members of the Board and the community at large about tonight’s agenda items, which revolve around traffic issues and police policy and procedural issues. I would like to give the new Chief and his staff time to review each of these issues internally. I know some of these situations have existed for years and there may be no solutions, but I feel the need to allow the department to review the facts and make recommendations.

We, as Commissioners, should not be in direct management of any of these situations, but act only in a legislative manner based on the recommendations of the department. Each one of these situations have been brought to our attention as Commissioners and need to be acted on after careful review by staff and our consultants, and it is great that our constituents keep us informed of situations in their neighborhood that we may not otherwise be aware of.

Some of these issues have been discussed for many months, but I must stress, that it is a function of the department and our consultants to find resolutions along with the input of community.”

Traffic Safety – Horsham Road:

Comm. Hotchkiss asked for this matter to be continued until the Police Chief looks at our Traffic Engineer’s report.

Comm. Booth asked about McMahon’s recommendation.

Comm. Hotchkiss said McMahon has recommended that the Township either install a pavement marking plan or increase police patrols as the best way to address speeding. The residents are objecting to the pavement markings because they would have to give up some parking spaces. So we need another resolution to come back before the Board to act on.

Comm. Booth said shouldn’t the recommendation say, “Either install pavement marking plan **and/or** increase police patrols.”

Comm. Hotchkiss replied it could be both.

Comm. McKenna asked did McMahon look at using illuminating lighting?

Comm. Hotchkiss replied he does not know, but he will speak to the Chief about it.

Comm. Hotchkiss asked for any public comments.

Kevin Spearing said this stretch of highway is in Ward 2, and he had discussions with the neighbors on this issue. This is a county highway and what has been done to correspond with the county to share in expenses?

Comm. Hotchkiss said we have not done that. He understands that prior Boards have looked at many options.

Comm. Booth asked Mr. Dodies if the county is aware of this problem.

Mr. Dodies replied yes, from prior Boards.

Comm. Booth asked would the county pay for the installation of any devices to this highway?

Mr. Dodies replied the county would likely want to see a specific proposal from the Township with our recommendations and it is possible they would cost share on it.

Comm. Hotchkiss said we will review this with the new Police Chief.

Mr. Spearing said some of the neighbors have suggested rumble strips, etc.

Comm. Hotchkiss said our recommendation was for McMahon & Associates to review the best alternatives for this highway and they recommended striping. We will continue this item, but keep it on the agenda.

Revised Title 7:

Comm. Hotchkiss said he will have the Police Chief review this over the next several months and we will continue this item. He asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none. He asked for any public comments. There were none.

Safety Concerns – Woodcrest & Edgehill Roads:

Comm. Hotchkiss said we received a letter from PennDOT regarding this issue. He would like our Police Chief to review this letter from them and, apparently, PennDOT completely ignored the recommendations of our Public Works Dept. and our Police Department in making this recommendation. He asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Comm. McKenna suggested continuing all three items until January, 2008.

Comm. Hotchkiss said we will continue them until March, 2008. He asked for any public comments. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comm. Hotchkiss said a safety concern was brought to his attention as there was a serious car accident on Mill Road and Mill Road was shut down for approximately 10-11 hours, which required traffic to be detoured through Bonnet Lane, etc. When the “closed road” sign was erected; there were no detour signs showing the drivers where to go, and he would like the Police Chief to review our road closure policy specifically where it involves detouring traffic through a residential neighborhood. When a roadway is closed, and PECO’s pole is down, who is in control of the scene, and who needs to provide road closure?

Lt. Levy replied the utility company. They are responsible for the road they are working on, but no one ever suggested detour signs, which is not a bad idea.

Comm. Hotchkiss asked for any public comments.

Tom McLaughlin, Mill Road, said we need “No Passing” signs on that street.

Comm. Booth asked Lt. Levy, is it legal to pass on that road?

Lt. Levy replied no, the reason there are signs there that say, “No Passing” is because the roadway is not wide enough.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

There were none.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Elizabeth Vile