

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, Andy Block, Chief of Police, John Fugelo, Captain/Emergency Services/Fire Marshall, Kenneth E. Davidson, Assistant Chief of Operations & Administration at Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad

- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Charles M. Whiting called the meeting to order following adjournment of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting, Commissioners Valenza and Scull, Chief Block, Captain Fugelo, Chief Davidson, Fire Chief Chuck Jones, Jr. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - January 25, 2021 - The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Reports:
 - Chief Block reviewed statistics, trainings, activities and public reminders.
 - Officer Nuskey was commended by Mr. & Mrs. O'Donnell who expressed their gratitude for his assistance when their car broke down on January 24, 2021.
 - Residents and businesses were reminded to clear their properties of snow and ice on sidewalks, which is required by Chapter 290 of the Township Code.
 - Commissioner Scull relayed concerns from a resident about skeet shooting at the Country Club near their property. Chief Block replied that the activity was in compliance with the Ordinance.
 - B. Department of Emergency Services:
 - Captain Fugelo reported that the Department is approximately 70% vaccinated from COVID-19.
 - Commissioner Spearing requested that fire hydrants be identified to avoid being plowed in with snow.
 - C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad:
 - Captain Davidson discussed fluctuations in COVID cases.
 - Thanked the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety for assisting with vaccinations to providers and front-line staff.
 - Discussed challenges with employment of full-time staff positions.
 - Work continues on legislation to provide funding for EMS.
 - There has been an increase in the number of mental health and social service calls due to the pandemic.
 - Three Aeroclave units were received, which will be used to disinfect emergency vehicles.
 - Commended providers and staff for their dedication throughout the pandemic.
 - Commissioner Spearing inquired about reintroducing the legislative Bill that would provide direct payments to EMS. Captain Davidson replied that lobbying continues with the State's legislators and the insurance industry, and support is needed from many constituents to contact their elected officials. Captain Davidson will continue to

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provide an update on House Bill 1347.

D. **Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company:**

- Chief Jones discussed the importance of snow removal from fire hydrants and requested posting information on the Township's website to educate the public.

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

VI. **New Business** - Nothing to report.

VII. **Other Items:**

A. **COVID-19 Update:**

- Mr. Candland stated that there have been 1,602 positive cases in the Township with a total of 46 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Montgomery County has had a total of 31,004 full vaccinations and 104,742 partial vaccinations.
- Mr. Candland stated that information regarding vaccination registration opportunities has been posted to the Township's website with a phone number to call.
- Commissioner Scull inquired on the status of the Police Officers' vaccinations. Chief Block stated that Officers are starting their second round of vaccinations.
- Commissioner Whiting commented concerns on the lack of vaccines in Montgomery County and was in contact with two County Commissioners on the issue.
- Commissioner Whiting urged residents to continue to wear masks and be safe.

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

IX. **Commissioner Comments** - Nothing to report.

X. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.