

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, Andrew J. 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. Absent: Fire Chief Chuck Jones, Jr. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - April 19, 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 all statistics, trainings, activities and public reminders that occurred during the month.
 - Reminded the public to register their house when going on vacation with the Police Department to check their properties on a daily basis. Registration can be found online or by calling the Department.
 - Commissioner Scull inquired about homelessness statistics and Chief Block replied that information will be available in the June report.
 - Commissioner Valenza inquired about robberies in March. Chief Block replied that they remain under investigation.
 - Commissioner Prousi requested to have a year-to-month comparison report included at the monthly meeting. Chief Block replied that it will be provided.
 - B. Department of Emergency Services:
 - Captain Chris Strange reviewed all statistics, trainings and activities for the month.
 - C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad:
 - Captain Davidson reviewed all statistics, trainings and activities for the month.
 - On-site staff workers increased during the month of April and all office staff will return on June 1, 2021, five days a week, with the flexibility to work remotely should there be a need to quarantine or if other issues arise.
 - The vaccine clinic in Willow Grove continues to be staffed five days a week and is going well. Funding is being received from Montgomery County CARES and the Department of Public Health.
 - Captain Davidson read from a report received from the American Heart Association's Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) relating to the State and the Country. SARS patients' survival rates were above the national average.

D. Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company - Nothing to report.

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

VI. **New Business:**

A. Request from Iron Hill Construction Management Company, Inc. to temporarily waive the restrictions on hours of construction at 95 N. York Road, and permit work after 10:00 PM and before 7:00 AM:

- Steven Hull, Senior Project Manager, discussed details of the schedule for delivery of materials and work.
- Commissioner Spearing suggested notifying the tenants and residents in the area by letter about the anticipated work.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting.

B. Township Solicitation and Peddling Ordinance:

- Mr. Baumler held a lengthy discussion regarding a challenge presented from a Texas firm on behalf of Moxie Pest Control who filed four claims that the Township has violated the First and Fourteen Amendments of the United States Constitution.
- Mr. Baumler recommends a 7-day permit be issued to Moxie Pest Control with fees waived, amending the solicitation pedaling provision of the ordinance, and immediately direct the Code Enforcement Department to stop the moratorium on issuance of permits.
- Commissioner Valenza inquired about the registry for no solicitation. Mr. Baumler stated that registration is done through the Police Department.
- Commissioner Valenza recommends the Police Department create a no solicitation form, the Commissioners send it out to their Wards, and it be posted to the Township website and Facebook.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting.

VII. **Other Items:**

A. COVID-19 Update:

- Mr. Candland stated that there have been 2,072 positive cases in the Township with a total of 51 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Montgomery County has had a total of 458,594 partial vaccinations and 277,826 full vaccinations, as of the end of April 2021.

B. Future Township Meeting Format:

- Mr. Candland explained that jurisdictions within Montgomery County have initiated internal policies reflect the CDC's guidelines. Montgomery County is making mask wearing optional for those who have been vaccinated. An employer is permitted to ask their employees if they have been vaccinated but not appropriate to ask the public.
- Commissioner Prousi inquired about the continuance of Zoom meeting broadcasts. Mr. Candland replied that they can be offered permanently with the ability for interaction or by observance only. Commissioner Scull favored interactive Zoom broadcasts for

**Upper Moreland Township
Committees Meetings
May 24, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

those who cannot attend in person.

- Commissioner Valenza suggested monitoring Zoom broadcasts to account for the amount and type of users.
- Commissioner Spearing inquired about total occupancy of the meeting room. Mr. Candland replied that the occupancy restrictions have been lifted by the CDC and Commissioner Valenza read certain exceptions.
- Mr. Baumler explained that as of June 1, 2021 all restrictions would be lifted except for mask wearing, which is contingent upon the State reaching 70% vaccination amongst the population. The State further recommended to continue following the CDC Guidelines.
- Dr. Lynnette Saunders, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council, commented her preference to continue with an interactive Zoom meeting format.
- The Committee agreed to phase in a normal meeting set up in the Council Room by placing signs between chairs at three-foot intervals for the month of June, continue following the CDC guidelines, revise signs on the Township building doors and continue interactive Zoom broadcasts.

VIII. Visitor Comments:

- Margie Peters, Library Director, commented that the Library will continue with their current schedule and wear masks until a decision is made at the July Board of Trustees meeting.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Spearing shared requests he received for brake retardants on Blair Mill Road approaching Easton Road, Mill Road at Easton Road, and on Fitzwatertown Road approaching Easton Road. Chief Block replied that residents can email him with their requests and he will contact PennDOT.

- X. Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.