

**Upper Moreland Township
Committees Meetings
April 19, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

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 Alarmers' 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 Chris Strange in the absence of Captain Fugelo, Chief Davidson, Fire Chief Chuck Jones, Jr. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - March 15, 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:
 - Commissioner Whiting thanked Chief Block and the Department for keeping the community and Township staff safe.
 - Chief Block reviewed all statistics, trainings, activities and public reminders for the month and discussed the following:
 - Timothy Lynch was promoted to Police Sergeant on March 1, 2021 at the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting.
 - Officer Megan Padua is a new hire and was welcomed into the Department on March 8, 2021. She is completing her Field Training program, which will conclude in June 2021.
 - Officers Matt Snyder, Christopher Hens, Bill Gershanick, Jason Dickerson and Sergeant Pam Cordura's squad were commended for providing educational time, conducting well-being checks and drive-by celebrations with residents.
 - Congratulated Sergeant Larry Rubas on his retirement from the Police Department and his 31 years of service to the community.
 - Upper Moreland Junior Police Academy will be held July 22-23, 2021, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. pm at Pileggi Park. Registration can be found on the Parks and Recreation website, and spaces are filling quickly.
 - Commissioner Whiting inquired about support for participants in the Junior Police Academy program. Chief Block replied that anyone interested in sponsoring a child can contact his office.
 - Commissioners Valenza and McFatrige explained that they attended a meeting, held by the State on April 18, 2021, regarding the local use of radar and requested that a letter of support be sent to Representative Nancy Guenst.

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- Commissioner Valenza shared that Senate Bill 158 is being considered regarding medal programs honoring first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical providers.
- Commissioner Valenza shared that PennDOT is changing the permitting regulations to use their streets for special events.
- Commissioner Scull inquired on the number of homeless in the Township. Chief Block replied that statistics are not available for the municipality. However, when the homeless are encountered, arrangements and provisions are offered to them for shelter, food and clothing. Commissioner Scull requested to add a monthly statistic to the Department's report.

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.
- The staffing crisis continues and there are times the level of service at one out of five stations has been downgraded to a basic crew versus a life support crew.
- Commissioner Valenza thanked the First Responders for their expertise and assistance with his father-in-law.
- Commissioner Prousi thanked the staff at the Abington vaccine center for their services and kindness.

D. Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company:

- Chief Jones discussed smoke detectors and to check for proper working conditions.
- New members are needed and interested individuals can learn more by sending an email to: becomeamember@wgdfc.org, or call at 215-659-7633.
- Four new volunteers are registered to attend Firefighter 1 School in August 2021.

V. Old Business - Nothing to report.

VI. New Business:

- Commissioner McFtridge commented on speeding and running lights and inquired about ideas for enforcement. Chief Block suggested launching an awareness campaign for safe streets.
- Commissioner Valenza shared that there is a House Bill to give municipalities control over the use of fireworks.

VII. Other Items:

A. COVID-19 Update:

- Mr. Candland stated that there have been 1,931 positive cases in the Township with a total of 49 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Montgomery County has had a total of 199,463 partial vaccinations and 154,710 full vaccinations, as of April 2021.
- Mr. Candland thanked Commissioner Valenza for facilitating a Covid-19 vaccination day at the Township building, where 20 people participated.

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

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Scull encouraged the public to vote "Yes" to the question on the Primary Election ballot relating to the State loaning money to local fire companies to purchase equipment. He further stated that volunteer fire companies are in need of equipment as well.
- Commissioner Whiting announced that the Ward 3-1 and Ward 3-2 polling location is at the Eastern Regional Technical School.
- Commissioner Whiting reminded that Earth Day is April 24, 2021 and to wear masks.

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

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.