

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, Chief Block, Captain Fugelo, Fire Chief Chuck Jones, Jr., Chief Davidson. Absent: Commissioner Scull. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - June 21, 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 the statistics from calls, crimes, offenses, arrests, investigations, citizen concerns and traffic. Officers attended Armed Intruder Training and assisted with the Juneteenth Celebration in the community.
 - Commissioner Prousi welcomed the new Police Officers and inquired on the number of heat-related emergency calls. Chief Block replied that none have been directly related to heat.
 - B. Department of Emergency Services:
 - Captain Fugelo reviewed statistics of emergency responses, inspections, activities and trainings for the month.
 - The Department assisted in the Juneteenth Celebration.
 - Commissioner Whiting inquired about assistance to families of fallen fire fighters. Captain Fugelo replied that monetary support for the families can be contributed by the community and the Volunteer Firefighters are planning to work with the dayshifts' personnel for approximately a week.
 - C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad:
 - Chief Davidson reviewed statistics of medical and fire calls, motor vehicle incidents, transports, cancellations, standbys, refusal of care, public assists and deaths.
 - SARs attended a meeting held by the County Mental Health officials to develop training and resources related to mental health, to assist with the uptick in cases.
 - House Bill 1293 was reintroduced by Representative Kurt Masser and requires insurance companies to make direct payments to the EMS agencies. Residents are being asked to voice their support to their elected State representative, which can help resolve yearly losses of approximately \$225,000.
 - Commissioner Spearing inquired about emergency room surprise balance billings and copays. Chief Davidson replied that it is not related to House Bill 1293.
 - A staffing crisis continues throughout the Country to employ EMS providers.
 - D. Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company:
 - Captain Jones discussed the recent loss of two fire fighters and emphasized the essential need for drivers to slow down and use extreme caution when approaching an emergency scene.

- The Volunteer Fire Company continues to seek new members and interested individuals can email a formal request to: becomeamember@wgvfc.org.
- Residents can follow the Volunteer Fire Company on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

V. Old Business:

- A. Discuss fees associated with Ordinance #1719 “Do Not Solicit”:
- Commissioner Spearing commented concerns about fees effecting traceable, local businesses.
 - Commissioner Lockard commented that the four-month permit should be removed.
 - Commissioner Prousi favors reducing four-month permits, tracking, and suggested basing fee structures on local versus outside businesses.
 - Mr. Baumler discussed that permit fees must be uniform and fair and the Committee agreed to a one-month limit.
 - The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the August 2, 2021 Regular Meeting on a Resolution that removes the four-month permit and provides two fee options: (1) one week for \$50 and (2) \$125 for one month.

VI. New Business:

- A. Traffic calming measures on Newington Drive and other areas within the Township:
- Chief Block reviewed speed data collected earlier in July, which was under the threshold to validate traffic calming devices. Another traffic study will be conducted in September when schools are back and vacations are over to compare more data.
 - Commissioner Spearing suggested that speeding occurs on newly paved roads and requested speed studies on additional streets i.e., Shoemaker Road.
 - Commissioner McPatridge suggested observing over the next several months the deterioration of traffic calming devices installed on Cherry Street from weather and plows.
 - Commissioner Prousi suggested additional roads for studies and to obtain residents' feedback.
 - The Committee will continue a discussion at a future Committee Meeting.

VII. Other Items:

- A. COVID-19 Update:
- Mr. Candland stated that there has been a total of 2,094 cases with 53 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic in the Township. Montgomery County has had 412,322 fully vaccinated and 55,781 partially vaccinated to date.
- B. Consider cancellation of the August 16, 2021 Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting.
- The Committee approved cancellation of the August 16, 2021 Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting and a notification will be posted to website.

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 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.