

## **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 Fugelo, Fire Chief Chuck Jones, Jr., Chief Davidson. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - July 26, 2021 -** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports - July and August:**
  - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Reports:
    - Chief Block advised on the statistics from calls, crimes, offenses, arrests, investigations, citizen concerns and traffic. An extensive list of community-oriented Police activities was also reviewed.
    - Officer Kevin Moffett retired after 18-1/2 years of service to the community and will be recognized at the September 13, 2021 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting.
    - Junior Police Academy and the Touch A Truck event were held at Pileggi Park, and Sgt. Pam Cordura along with several Police Department personnel were commended for the successful events.
    - Under the authority of Upper Moreland Civil Service Commission, 23 police candidates were administered oral interview examinations, and results were forwarded to the Commission for certification at the August 10, 2021 meeting.
    - Inter-Faith Housing Alliance thanked the Department for gifts of food and a donation in support of families in Montgomery County.
    - Faith & Blue event will be held on October 9, 2021, 10 a.m., at the Hatboro Baptist Church.
    - Commissioner Valenza commended the Department for the Junior Police Academy.
    - Commissioner Scull shared safety concerns from a resident regarding handicapped ramps with crosswalks on the corners of Moreland Road. Chief Block will contact PennDOT for additional information. Mr. Candland noted that PennDOT is installing improvements to curbs all along Moreland Road.
    - Sue Worth LaManna requested "Deer Crossing" signs on Huntingdon Road, Masons Mill Road and further along Edgehill Road past the Pennypack. She noted that the vegetation along Huntingdon Road is in need of cutting back for safety reasons.
    - Ms. Worth LaManna commented on the 25 mph speed limit entering the Town Center area and the increase to 40 mph leaving the area. Chief Block discussed reasoning and replied that a petition would be required to submit to PennDOT.
  - B. Department of Emergency Services:
    - Captain Fugelo reviewed statistics of emergency responses, inspections, permits, activities and trainings for the month.

C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad:

- Chief Davidson reviewed statistics of medical, motor vehicle and fire calls, transports, cancellations, refusal of care, and deaths.
- EMS agencies across the State and region are facing a crisis. Crew staffing has been reduced on occasion over the past several months and advanced life support systems were downgraded to basic life support for a few hours during full shifts. The staff is suffering from burnout and new staff has not been hired. Municipalities need to show providers that they support increases to wages, which will attract skilled professionals.
- Chief Davison requested a discussion on the budget at a future Committees Meeting.
- Commissioner Prousi favors holding a discussion to work on strategies for funding.
- Commissioner Prousi and Whiting thanked Chief Davidson for his service.

D. Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company:

- Captain Jones reviewed tips on fire alarm systems, smoke detectors, a fire escape plan, and to clearly mark the address of your house.
- Fire Prevention Open House will be held on October 7, 2021 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the main station on Davisville Road.
- The Volunteer Fire Company continues to seek new members and interested individuals can email requests to: [becomeamember@wgvfc.org](mailto:becomeamember@wgvfc.org).
- Residents can follow the Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company website, as well as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Commissioner Valenza recommended also posting information to the Township website.

V. **Old Business:**

A. Traffic Calming Measures within the Township:

- Chief Block reiterated a request for traffic calming and removal of parking restrictions on Newington Drive. He provided results on a speed study and an evaluation of parking.
- Chief Block recommends no additional traffic calming devices and that parking restrictions remain in place.

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

VII. **Other Items:**

A. After Action Report – Flooding from Remnants of Hurricane Ida:

- Mr. Candland summarized data from the Department Directors and was happy to report that there was no loss of life. In preceding hours of the storm, the forecast was downgraded, which lead staff to delays in arrival at the emergency operations center. Recommendations include: identify locations for floodgates, additional training on Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) and equipment, and investigate radio communication options for Departments.
- Chief Block stated that once the transition to the upgraded radio system is completed, everyone will be on the same frequency.
- Commissioner McFatrige commended the Departments for their services and stated that the reports are an opportunity to learn from and develop new solutions.
- Commissioner Spearing commented on the need for a boat and the rebuilding of Warminster Bridge above the creek. Chief Block recommended forming a swift water

rescue team as a resource.

**B. COVID-19 Update:**

- Mr. Candland stated that there has been a total of 2,338 cases with 54 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic in the Township. Montgomery County has had 447,148 fully vaccinated (60%). Within five miles of the Township Building, there are at least 50 vaccination sites available to the public.
- Commissioner Valenza inquired on local hospital shutdowns. Chief Davidson replied that there are staff and boarding issues and hospital will go on diversion intermittently, in order to clear their emergency rooms, but there have been no shutdowns.

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

**IX. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing commented that the dividing striped line was changed during milling and paving on Horsham Road, which has affected parking.
- Commissioner Whiting reminded everyone to wear masks for safety against COVID-19.

**X. Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.