

## 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, S. Michael Murphy, Chief of Police, John Fugelo, Captain/Emergency Services/Fire Marshall, Lee Perlmutter, Chief of Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company, Kenneth E. Davidson, Assistant Chief of Operations & Administration at Second Alarmer's Rescue Squad

- I. **Call to order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting called the meeting to order following adjournment of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Whiting and Commissioners Valenza and Scull. Also present: Chief Murphy, Captain Fugelo, Chief Perlmutter, Deputy Chief Colton Marsh in the absence of Assistant Chief Davidson, David A. Dodies, Township Manager, and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - September 23, 2019:** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports - September 2019:**
  - A. Police Department – Memorandum and Monthly Report: Chief Murphy discussed the following items:
    - Police Officer Mark E. Bouldin started employment with department on September 23, 2019. He is completing in-house orientation and training and will deploy to a patrol squad with a full-time officer in early October.
    - Officers are participating in a charitable event "No Shave November" to raise funds to benefit prostate cancer research.
    - Officers attended Crisis Intervention Training, a Region 1 Safety Partners LE Seminar, Basic Investigators Training sponsored by the FBI, and the Pennsylvania Crime Prevention Officers Conference. K-9 teams participated in the USPCA Police Dog 1 field trails and performed outstandingly.
    - The Crime Watch website continues with on-boarding, training of staff, and building of the platform.
    - The public is reminded to be vigilant for fraudulent activity on their bank and credit card accounts and to be aware of scam phone calls.
    - A prescription drug drop box located in the Police lobby is accessible 24 hours a day. Liquid prescriptions are not accepted due to leakage.
    - The next Drug Enforcement Association "Drug Take Back Day" is on October 26, 2019.
    - Statistics were reviewed on service calls, traffic stops, arrests and Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) inspections.
    - Commissioner Whiting asked Chief Murphy to make recommendations for Halloween. Chief Murphy suggested that children go out early to trick or treat, wear bright colored clothing, carry flashlights, and that parents check all goodies they bring home.
  - B. Department of Emergency Services - Captain Fugelo reviewed items on the report.
  - C. Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad - Deputy Chief Colton Marsh reviewed statistics and provided the following updates:
    - House Bill 1347, a direct pay legislation that significantly effects EMS funding by facilitating the collection of insurance payments for patient services, is scheduled for a full vote within the next few weeks.

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- The squad participated in the "Touch A Truck" event on September 14, 2019.
- D. Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company: Chief Perlmutter provided the following updates:
- The monthly safety tips are related to carbon monoxide (CO) alarms:
    - Install CO alarms in a central location outside the sleeping areas in the house and other areas required by law and code standards.
    - The Fire House can be contacted with any questions on installation.
    - If the alarm goes off, call 911 and exit the building. Wait in your car if it is cold outside. Do not change anything in the house so that the Fire Company can check the house for issues.
    - Test the alarm and replace the batteries if necessary.
    - During the winter months, remove snow buildup from the vents of fireplaces, stoves, and dryers.
    - Place generators outside and point the exhaust away from the house, garage, windows, doors and vent openings.
    - CO alarms are inexpensive and a reliable way to protect your family.
  - The Annual Open House and Fire Prevention Event held on October 10, 2019, at The Marketplace Shopping Center, was well attended.
  - Thanks was given to the Township and Commissioners for their support in purchasing the new fire truck, which has been commended by other agencies.
  - The Company is always seeking new members for fire fighters, fire police and administrative staff. As of Thursday, October 17, 2019, there are three new members, of which two have experience. Two Juniors are waiting to be on-boarded as soon as the Junior Policy is completed. Another two applications were received, one of which was a walk-in at the Open House.
    - Commissioner Valenza reminded the public to clear snow away from the area around a fire hydrant. Chief Perlmutter stated that a reminder will be posted to social media.
    - Commissioner Whiting inquired on members receiving certifications. Chief Perlmutter stated that four members received a Fire Officer I Certification and one member received a Fire Officer II Certification. Certificates will be presented at a future Committees Meeting.
    - Commissioner Spearing inquired on full dedication of the new fire truck. Chief Perlmutter stated that he will provide a follow up on scheduling an Open House in the Spring for the dedication.
    - Commissioner Spearing commented that there is an informative incentive program that was organized by Montgomery County to recruit fire fighters, which includes a discussion about Act 172. Additional ideas are continuously needed to recruit members.

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

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

VII. **Other Items** - nothing to report.

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 8:35 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Kristire.