

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, ROTHMAN, THOMPSON, VAHEY

Township Manager MANFREDI
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Chief of Police MOLLOY

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, HECKER, MYERS, ROTHMAN, SANCHEZ, GILLESPIE, ZAPPONE, BRODSKY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Rothman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2018 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Police Department Report:

Chief of Police Molloy commended Deputy Chief Kelley Warner and Sergeant Joe Blythe for escorting the Unity Tour to the Police Memorial event in Washington D.C. in May where Constable Daniel O'Brien's name was inscribed on a Law Enforcement Memorial. Constable O'Brien was killed in the line of duty in Ardsley back in 1904.

Also, there has been an arrest in Ardsley on the 600 block of Cricket Avenue where residents left their doors unlocked and the keys were in the console of their vehicle. Cheltenham Township Police locked up four individuals from Philadelphia and they were able to clear six or seven motor vehicle thefts in Abington Township.

Regarding DUI Taskforce; Sergeant Joe Blythe runs that for a number of different departments and there will be roving patrols on the weekends in Abington and surrounding municipalities with DUI checkpoints set up.

Commissioner Sanchez questioned whether Constable O'Brien's name will be inscribed on the Law Enforcement Memorial at the Montgomery County Courthouse in the future.

Chief Molloy replied he will look into it.

Commissioner Schreiber acknowledged that Fire Marshal Rohrer and Second Alarmers Rich Garrett who were present this evening to answer any questions by the Board.

PRESENTATION: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item PS-01-061418:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to promote Officer Troy Senne to the rank of Probationary Sergeant effective June 15, 2018 provided he successfully completes the remaining portions of the promotional process.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Item PS-02-061418:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to appoint Aaron Houston from the Certified Civil Service Eligibility List to the position of Probationary Police Officer provided he successfully completes the Background, Physical and Psychological tests and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission for Act 120 Training. Appointment will be effective June 25, 2018.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Item PS-03-061418:

Commissioner Schreiber said this item is to consider approving and recommending the adoption of Resolution No. 2018-026, a Resolution of the Township of Abington, County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing a uniform policy and procedure for considering certain traffic regulations and the installing of proper signs and markings.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Kline referring to Item 4.-b. of Resolution No. 2018-026 that says, “The Township Manager may schedule the request for consideration at a public meeting for the Board of Commissioners to authorize experimental regulations in accordance with Chapter 156, Vehicles and Traffic, subsection 156-4, and he clarified that is Abington’s code. Is that correct?”

Manager Manfredi replied yes. Also, it is enforceable during that experimental time.

Commissioner Myers asked at the end of the 90-day period, who will make the determination as to whether or not the traffic improvement made the area safer.

Manager Manfredi replied it is the same process; traffic safety officer, traffic engineer, ward Commissioner and then ultimately the Board of Commissioners would determine whether experimental improvements are safer and then it would be added to traffic regulation ordinance, and if not, it would end there.

Commissioner Schreiber expressed concern about constantly evaluating experimental traffic safety improvements that could become a fulltime job and that it should be just a “rejection system” instead.

Manager Manfredi replied there will be reports about whether or not experimental traffic safety improvements should be moved forward to the ordinance.

Commissioner Myers said if experimental traffic improvement is shown to be unsafe there needs to be a mechanism where it is removed as soon as possible.

Manager Manfredi agreed and that would be Chief Molloy’s determination.

Chief Molloy commented that we would continuously monitor the installation where it does not meet the warrants to see if it is causing more harm and we will act on it and there will be a mechanism in place to do that.

Commissioner Thompson clarified that the experimental traffic safety device would be removable to be able to be placed somewhere else. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied yes.

Commissioner DiPlacido made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve and recommend the adoption Resolution No. 2018-026, a Resolution of the Township of Abington, County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing a uniform policy and procedure for considering certain traffic regulations and the installing of proper signs and markings.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Item PS-04-061418:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to advertise Ordinance No. 2157, amending Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article II – “Traffic Regulations,” Section 14 – “Stop Intersections,” and Article III – “Parking Regulations,” at Sections 25 – “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here to Corner,” and 28 – “Special Purpose Parking Zones,” to add stop intersections on King Road, Garden Road and Wesley Avenue; add “No Parking Here to Corner” signs on Keswick Avenue; repeal “No Parking Here to Corner” signs on Fairhill Avenue, add “Special Purpose” parking restrictions on Rockwell Road and repeal “Special Purpose” parking restrictions on Arlington Avenue, all as more fully set forth in the Ordinance.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she feels the “wording of Police Pension Association card should be larger.” Also, she expressed concern about the “safety issues of vacant properties.”

Raymond Bell, 2076 Parkview Avenue, commented that he has lived in this Township for 34 years and he has never received anything but positive responses from the Police Department, and he feels safe in this Township and he thanked them for it.

Chief Molloy clarified that the resident’s concerns were addressed with regards to the retirement private pension fund card.

Public Safety Committee Meeting

June 6, 2018

ADJOURNMENT: 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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