

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 9:45 p.m.

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

Township Manager MANFREDI
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Designate Chief of Police MOLLOY
Traffic Safety Officer FREED

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

Note: Commissioner Zappone left the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of December 6, 2017.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

PRESENTATION: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

Police Department Report:

Designate Chief of Police Molloy reported that there was an outstanding arrest made back in June 2017 on an opioid case that was investigated by Detective Rick Beaghley, who traced the fentanyl back to the suspect who pled guilty.

If an Abington resident is suffering from addiction, they can come into the police department 24/7 with a family member and they will be referred to treatment facilities and treatment professionals and there is no charge for it.

Often times the police are called to respond to a medical emergency or someone who is disabled and cannot get in through the door, so to gain entry we may need to damage property. There is a “Locks for Life” Program, which is for someone who is disabled or has special needs that can provide a code for a lock to the Fire Department, EMS and Police and locks are available through Community Policing Division and Sergeant Gillespie is the contact person.

He congratulated Officer Adrian McMnamin, Officer Jordan Jones and Officer Mike Jones for completing D.A.R.E. Certification Training for both elementary and junior high schools.

Commissioner Schreiber asked when will the “Locks for Life” Program begin?

Chief Molloy replied the program has begun as there are a number of locks in stock now that are coordinated with Sergeant Gillespie.

Commissioner Schreiber clarified that announcements and pamphlets will be provided as well. Is that correct?

Chief Molloy replied that is correct.

Commissioner Schreiber thanked Sergeant Gillespie for the APAIR (Abington Police Assisting In Recovery) Program in which press release was posted on Township website.

Commissioner Vahey noted that he, along with Commissioners Brodsky and Thompson attended an orientation with the police department and he thanked them for it. The Township has been well-served by the police department for many years and he is excited about the new leadership.

Commissioner DiPlacido thanked Sergeant Gillespie for the APAIR Program as it is a good, overdue program. He will forward his questions to Sergeant Gillespie at a later date.

Commissioner Kline gave credit to Adam Zucker, Supervisor of Whitpain Township, who implemented the APAIR program in which Abington Police Department took on right away.

Commissioner Schreiber called on Rich Garrett, Second Alarmers.

Rich Garrett, Assistant Chief of Second Alarmers, introduced himself to the new Board members and noted that the Second Alarmers cover seven municipalities and he choose Abington as he is a 55-year resident. Every month he sends a report to the Fire Marshal’s Office and to Commissioner Schreiber.

Commissioner Kline asked for a future presentation to be made by the Second Alarmers coordinated with Tom McAneney, EMAP Coordinator, on Montgomery County's Priority One Calls and the changes being implemented by the County.

Consider Appointing Abington Auto Care and Lindley Towing, LLC as the "Duty Tow" Companies for 2018

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to consider appointing Abington Auto Care and Lindley Towing, LLC as the "Duty Tow" Companies for 2018.

Commissioner Schreiber called on Traffic Safety Officer Freed.

Traffic Safety Officer Freed said Abington Auto Care is actually "Duty Tow" and formerly Brad's Auto Body located on Mt. Carmel Avenue and, over the past few months, the owner subcontracted out as he is no longer in this business. So as a committee we reviewed applications and recommend Abington Auto Care and Lindley Towing, LLC as the department's duty tow.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Thompson asked for the amount of applicants.

Traffic Safety Officer Freed replied for duty tow there were two; however, there were a total of five applicants that included towing out of private lots and, per Township ordinance, they are also required to be approved and have a license.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Consider Adopting Ordinance No. 2152 Amending Chapter 156 "Vehicles and Traffic," Article II "Traffic Regulations," Section 11.3 "Right Turn Only" and Section 14 "Stop Intersections:"

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to consider adopting Ordinance No. 2152 amending Chapter 156 "Vehicles and Traffic," Article II "Traffic Regulations," Section 11.3 "Right Turn Only" and Section 14 "Stop Intersections:"

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Spiegelman said these are much needed safety upgrades throughout Ward 11, and once the Stop signs are approved, how long will they be installed?

Traffic Safety Officer Freed replied Public Works needs to call in an outside contractor to work on lines that may be in the path of where the signs will be installed and that depends on their time schedule.

Commissioner Schreiber said this location is Horace and Highland Avenues and Rockwell and Jericho Roads. Also, the Stop sign being installed at Highland Avenue and Canterbury Road will be a 3-way (All) Stop sign.

Commissioner Spiegelman commented that there will be additional cautionary signage and markings in conjunction with these signs.

Commissioner Gillespie expressed concern about the fence on the corner of Rockwell and Jericho.

Commissioner Spiegleman replied that fence was measured and permitted.

Commissioner Myers expressed concern about the significant grade of that hill at Rockwell and Jericho and was any consideration given to roughen that roadway, and was this Stop sign approved by PennDOT?

Commissioner Spiegelman replied PennDOT did not pose any obstacle to the installation of the Stop sign. It is a complicated intersection where there have been a significant number of reportable crashes.

Manager Manfredi added that discussion with PennDOT was signage will alert drivers to slow down, but there was no discussion about milling or rumble strips on the pavement itself.

Commissioner Vahey questioned whether there has been engineering or traffic studies done.

Manager Manfredi replied both PennDOT and the Township's traffic engineer reviewed it and determined that these measures are warranted, but no traffic study was done.

Commissioner Schreiber said members of the committee would like to see data by traffic engineer.

Manager Manfredi replied he will ask the traffic engineer to provide a memo to the Board by next week.

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to pass this item onto the full Board for consideration without recommendation.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments relating to Public Safety.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the new public speaking rights.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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