

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 8:40 p.m.

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

Township Manager MANFREDI  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Deputy Chief WARNER  
Traffic Safety Officer FREED

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

Note: Commissioner Brodsky left the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2018 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Police Department Report:

Deputy Chief Kelley D. Warner reported that Sergeant Roger Gillespie applied for two grants on behalf of CAPT (Citizens and Police Together) totaling \$9,000 to offset costs for the D.A.R.E. Program. Sergeant Gillespie also applied for another grant on behalf of CAPT for the 24-Hour Relay Challenge event. She commended him for his work on applying for those grant opportunities. D.A.R.E. program is funded by CAPT and does not cost the Township any tax dollars.

Commissioner Schreiber acknowledged that Fire Marshal Rohrer was present this evening and called on Ken Davison and Rich Garrett of the Second Alarmers to provide a report to the Board.

Second Alarmers Report:

Mr. Ken Davidson reported an update on the opioid crisis and EMS response calls. First Quarter of 2018; EMS responded to seven opioid overdoses resulting in two patients expiring at the scene. There were three cases where the police delivered Narcan and two cases where EMS delivered Narcan.

There were cases where EMS and police respond to patients after they are alert, they refuse further treatment. There are pieces of legislation moving through the process; House Bill 1501 and Senate Bill 810 to provide amendments to regulations, and he encouraged everyone to support it.

Commissioner Schreiber asked does the Second Alarmers receive detailed information when saves are not successful.

Mr. Davidson replied unfortunately, feedback ends at the conclusion of contact.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether there is literature for patients to get a “warm handoff?”

Mr. Davidson replied there is an information card by the County that is provided to the patient.

Deputy Chief Warner added that we receive a report on the toxins in the body from an overdose death.

Commissioner Thompson asked about statistics that track a person treated multiple times with Narcan.

Mr. Davidson replied we have responded to the same location and treated the same person multiple times in the County, but we do not track that as a statistic.

Deputy Chief Warner added that when we get a call for the same location we send someone to do outreach.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether there have been instances when EMS or police personnel needed to be treated for breathing in fentanyl.

Mr. Davidson replied no, we have not.

Commissioner Thompson questioned how many of the cases occur in public and how many occur in private.

Deputy Chief Warner replied she will report back on that number, but it does happen more often in the home.

**PRESENTATION:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Items PS-01-041218:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to promote Sergeant Kevin Magee to the rank of Probationary Lieutenant effective April 16, 2018 providing he successfully completes the remaining portions of the promotional process.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Deputy Chief Warner commented that this is another step in the department's succession planning.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Item PS-02-041218:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to amend the FY2018 Budget to reallocate appropriations from line items:

525-7517 Body Camera 2016 \$8,621.34  
525-7520 Police Vehicle Digital System \$757.29  
525-7523 Body Cameras \$10,000.00  
525-7525 In-Car Video Replacement \$17,812.06  
525-7526 Police Vehicle Digital System \$15,000.00  
525-7527 Body Cameras \$10,000.00  
525-7531 In-Car Video Replacement \$30,000.00 to budget line item 07-04-525-7533 for a specific purpose of a multi-year Body Camera purchase in the total amount of \$112,190.69.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Deputy Chief Warner commented that technology has changed and we hoped to improve our in-car camera systems, but we were unable to do so because they do not make that product any longer. We are consolidating funds to purchase something that will be helpful to our officers and residents.

Commissioner Rothman questioned whether additional funds are needed or is this just a reallocation.

Deputy Chief Warner replied we will be looking for additional capital funds in the future, but not for this.

Manager Manfredi added that it has been reapportioned so that all dollars will go to one new line item within the budget and there is no additional dollars.

Commissioner Thompson asked about replacement of cameras in the police cars.

Deputy Chief Warner replied that is not off the table, but the issue is extreme cost of having both. Products are being investigated as to what is the most cost-effective.

Commissioner Vahey asked is a resolution or ordinance needed to amend the budget for this year?

Manager Manfredi replied no, just a motion to create a line item for the body cameras and to reallocate the dollars that were already budgeted. He could request Finance Director Barron to recreate a page showing the difference.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether there is a body camera for every officer.

Deputy Chief Warner replied yes.

Commissioner Luker said the total amount of \$112,190.69 is for a body camera for every officer?

Lt. Chris Porter replied the amount of \$112,190.69 is for a program that we would want to proceed with in the future. It is not enough to cover the entire program for the multi-year contract, which most vendors require. Depending on what direction we go in such as body cameras or car cameras will have a direct impact on the budget. For one of the vendors we are considering, the amount of \$112,190.69 would be enough to cover it for a few years until we figure out how to fund the entire project.

Commissioner Kline said there was previous discussion a few years ago about body cameras and there were concerns about "Right To Know" and how the video is cataloged and its accessibility to the public. There have been changes in State Legislature and has that been reviewed?

Deputy Chief Warner replied yes, amendments to wiretap law have now made it possible to carry body cameras.

Lt. Porter said we have been putting money in capital for the past several years for this same line item going forward for that purchase program whether it is a three, five or seven year contract.

Commissioner Luker asked for the price difference for in-car camera v. body cameras.

Lt. Porter replied cost for body cameras are in the range of \$300-\$400 per camera and vehicle camera system costs approximately \$500,000.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked when someone is speaking with an officer do they know they are being videoed?

Deputy Chief Warner replied current policy for in-car cameras is that the person is advised they are being audio and visually recorded.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Item PS-03-041218:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to adopt Ordinance No. 2153 amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic) Article III (Parking Regulations) Section 25 – (Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here to Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours and Section 28 (Special Parking Zones) that will establish the following: No Parking Here to Corner on the southbound side of Roberts Avenue 30 feet north of the “Stop” sign at Ardsley Avenue; No Parking on the south side of Moreland Road from Melmar Road (west to the end of the shoulder), No Parking Between Signs 5 ft. north of the driveway for 781 Jackson Avenue and 2 ft. south of the driveway at 801 Jackson Avenue, Handicapped Parking in front of 1753 Fairview Avenue, Repeal Handicapped Parking in front of 2422 Avondale Avenue.

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:**

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

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she feels that the “Township Commissioners especially the Public Safety and Code Directors should receive a report from the legal division as to the status of court cases.”

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

sev