

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:11 p.m.

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

Township Manager MANFREDI
Assistant Township Manager WEYMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Police Chief MOLLOY
Lieutenant PORTER
Traffic Safety Officer FREED
Fire Marshal ROHRER

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, BOWMAN, ZAPPONE, BRODSKY, CARSWELL, GILLESPIE, WINEGRAD, SPIEGELMAN, MYERS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve Public Safety Committee Meeting minutes of March 6, 2019.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

PRESENTATION:

Deputy Chief Kelley Warner Recognition:

Chief Molloy announced that Deputy Chief Kelley Warner was presented with an award by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement, which is a competitive lifetime achievement award.

Commissioner Schreiber presented Deputy Chief Kelley D. Warner of the Abington Township Police Department with a Certificate in recognition of serving the Abington community for the past 30 years where she served as the first female Tactical Unit Officer and D.A.R.E. Officer and promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2000, where she was promoted to President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement in 2012 and served until 2016, where she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2013, where she was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief in 2017, where she is a lifetime member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement where she was honored with their lifetime achievement award. Deputy Chief Warner has not only dedicated herself to department growth, she has dedicated herself to continued education as a student and as a professor where she is an advocate and mentor. Now, be it proclaimed on May 1, 2019, that Deputy Chief Kelley Warner be honored for her countless achievements and for serving all of the people of the Township of Abington with respect and distinction and is herewith recognized by this formal expression of gratitude and thanks by the Township Manager and the Township Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington. Congratulations!

Police Department Report:

Chief Molloy reported that Mary Carminati of Community Policing Division was recognized by the Willow Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church for her efforts in the community with Youth Aid Panel. Lt. Saurman, Sergeant Gillespie, Officer Townsend, Dave Rondinelli and others just completed the two-month Citizens Police Academy where 42 residents graduated. Tomorrow evening is when the public school D.A.R.E. graduation will be held at Abington Senior High School. Sergeant Roger Gillespie will be honored by Access Services that help people in crisis. On May 8th Sergeant Kent and Detective Lieutenant Steve Fink will be recognized by the District Attorneys Office for their outstanding work and Detective Lieutenant Steve Fink will also be honored by the Citizens Crime Commission of Delaware Valley for valor and heroism. Detectives Rob Davis and Ronnie Griffith did a series on Facebook called, "Beneath the Vest" that was about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Catholic School D.A.R.E. graduation will be held at St. Basil's Academy on May 8th at 7 p.m. May 12-18 is National Police Week. May 18-19 will be the Citizens and Police Together 25th Annual 24-Hour Relay Challenge event where an award will be presented honoring former Police Officer and Commissioner Mike Gillespie for "Save the Parade" event.

Also, three quarters of the department's body cameras have been deployed and we will be requesting assistance from Commissioners on getting the word out to the community to hold an open house where we can explain technology, policies and procedures related to it.

Commissioner Vahey commended the Police Department on its "High-Five Fridays" event, which is a great idea, and he asked for a description for the public.

Chief Molloy gave credit to Deputy Chief Warner about the idea, and on Friday mornings when children are getting off the bus at school, officers will be present at each and every school in the Township (rain or shine).

Also, about three weeks ago, he was selected by the State of Pennsylvania to attend the FBI National Academy's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar comprised of Chiefs from small cities and large towns where he spent a week learning valuable lessons including items that the department implemented immediately. He will be spending one more week in Charlottesville, VA, for the second part of this training seminar.

Commissioner Schreiber noted that Rich Garrett, Second Alarmers previously provided his report to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item PS-01-050919:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to advertise Ordinance No. 2165, amending Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article II – Traffic Regulations,” Section 14 – “Stop Intersections,” and Article III – “Parking Regulations,” Section 25 – “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner,” to add “Stop” intersections on Green Road, Eagle Road, Moredon Road, Pembroke Road, Upsal Road, and Rubicam Avenue; add “No Parking Here To Corner” on Arbuta Road, Central Avenue and Montgomery 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.

Item PS-02-050919 – Consider a motion to approve adoption of Resolution No. 2019-018, a resolution of the Township of Abington, County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing a Township of Abington Traffic Calming Policy.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for this item to be tabled as the committee is not prepared to discuss it at this time. She asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Rothman commented that traffic calming is the number one issue residents mention to him repeatedly and considering a policy to be implemented is progress; however, he agreed on tabling it for now for further inquiry, but suggested it be placed back on the agenda in June as traffic safety is his number one priority.

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to TABLE Item PS-02-050919.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – general matters relating to Public Safety:

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels there are “public safety issues.”

Cakky Evans, 1132 Lindsay Lane, commented that the EAC was invited to an international conference in Manhattan called, CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project), and she shared that our municipality has an all-volunteer fire department and they were very impressed as well as impressed by all of the accolades that the police department has received, and she feels comfortable about our public safety.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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