

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, BOWMAN, SPIEGELMAN, KALINOSKI

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Fire Marshal CLARK
Chief of Police KELLY
Traffic Safety Officer FREED
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Lieutenant MALLOY

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE, MYERS ROTHMAN

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Police Department Report:

Chief Kelly reported that crime continues to decrease as we had a number of excellent arrests; however, four officers are completely off-duty due to injuries on the job.

Commissioner Spiegelman said he would imagine that sentences would increase substantially if someone resists arrest and injures an officer.

Chief Kelly replied that is correct. It could go from being a minor situation to becoming a felony with a jail sentence and fine. Complaints can be filed afterwards, but no one has the right to resist arrest.

Commissioner Luker questioned whether any injuries will be long term and how will this affect the department?

Chief Kelly replied two probably over a month long and there are several others in the same situation. All will come back as soon as possible, and we will move resources around to cover it.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether there have been any reports about the use of Narcan saving lives.

Chief Kelly replied he does not recall any recent Narcan saves at this time; however, that does not mean there are none by the Second Alarmers.

Commissioner DiPlacido requested that the Second Alarmers provide a monthly report to the Public Safety Committee on the use of Narcan saving lives.

Ordinance No. 2114 - To Amend Chapter 155 "Vehicles and Traffic" Article III "Parking Regulations" Section 9.2 "No Left Turn" and Section 11 "Turns at Intersections"

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Ordinance No. 2114 – (attached) amending Chapter 156 "Vehicles and Traffic" Article III "Parking Regulations" Section 9.2 "No Left Turn" and Section 11 "Turns at Intersections" at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on March 10, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

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.

Ordinance No. 2115- To Amend Chapter 156 "Vehicles and Traffic" Article II "Traffic Regulations" Section 14 "Stop Intersection" and Chapter 156 "Vehicles and Traffic" Article III "Parking Regulations" Section 26 "Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours"

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to advertise Ordinance No. 2115 amending Chapter 156 "Vehicles and Traffic" Article II "Traffic Regulations" Section 14 "Stop Intersection" and Chapter 156 "Vehicles and Traffic" Article III "Parking Regulations" Section 26 "Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours" for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on April 14, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Spiegelman noted that this was supplemented to include "Time Restricted Parking" on the 1100 block of Grovania Avenue, and he thanked Traffic Safety Officer Freed as well as the entire Traffic Safety Unit.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Resolution No. 16-014 – In opposition to Senate Bill 1055 (Legalizing Fireworks)

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Resolution No. 16-014 expressing opposition to Senate Bill 1055 expanding the sale, usage and storage of consumer fireworks in Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Schreiber called on Fire Marshal Clark.

Fire Marshal Clark explained that he was recently made aware of this proposal that is currently in the State Senate, and he sent a copy to the Board of Commissioners.

If this law passes as written, it will be legal in Pennsylvania for an 18-year old to purchase bottle rockets, Roman candles and mortar rounds that fly 150 feet in the air making a loud “boom” sound. Also, it will be legal for anyone over the age of 18 to use these items from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m.

Commissioner Schreiber commented that she is in favor of this resolution.

Commissioner DiPlacido questioned whether those items can be purchased now in the State of Pennsylvania.

Fire Marshal Clark replied they can be purchased in Pennsylvania if the person can produce identification that they live out-of-state.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked if this Bill passes, would it preempt the Township’s ability to regulate or ban these types of fireworks.

Solicitor Clark replied yes. Most of what is on the books would be preempted by State law.

Commissioner Myers asked Fire Marshal if he is aware of any organized effort among Pennsylvania Fire Departments or Fire Marshal Offices opposing Senate Bill 1055.

Fire Marshal Clark replied yes, there are several organizations who are actively attempting to fight this Bill.

Chief Kelly added that he sent out an email to the Board of Commissioners in support of the Fire Marshal’s position on this Bill.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she feels no legislation should succeed when all Fire Marshals and Chiefs of Police are united in rallying behind this resolution as well as they should for a “resolution regarding solicitation.”

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

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

Commissioner Rothman thanked Traffic Safety Officer Freed for his assistance with getting a new “Stop” sign posted in Ward 3.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels “gasses forced up into your house are a safety issue” and also she feels “there is no place to speak about this matter.”

Commissioner Schreiber replied that Township staff addressed this matter during the Public Works Committee meeting with this resident. However, she asked Manager LeFevre to get an answer from Mr. Wrigley, Director of W.W.T.P.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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