

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 8:37 p.m.

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

Township Solicitor CLARKE
Fire Marshal CLARK
Chief of Police LIVINGOOD
Traffic Safety Officer FREED

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Schreiber provided a copy of an article regarding future potential shortage of volunteer firefighters to the Board and Township staff. She asked that next month's meeting include an agenda item for consideration of an ordinance allowing earned income tax credits up to \$1,000 per year applied to local taxes of volunteer firefighters. The article was sent to Township Solicitor for review.

Solicitor Clarke noted preliminary research was done on Act 172 of 2016 authorizing municipalities to grant local tax credits to volunteer firefighters and EMS volunteers. He will review ordinances passed by other municipalities, and the ordinance will be drafted exactly as Act 172 requires and procedures will be laid out properly.

Commissioner Schreiber requested that this matter be also placed on the agenda of the Fire Board's next meeting.

Commissioner Bowman commented that a newspaper article indicated that officials of Warminster Township began considering this matter at their last Board meeting, and he supports it for Abington.

Commissioner Zappone clarified that it is not just restricted to firefighters, but also for First Responders. Is that correct?

Solicitor Clarke replied it is for volunteer firefighters and EMS volunteers.

Commissioner Kline noted that Whitpain Township officials just passed this ordinance and he requested a copy of it for reference.

Commissioner Schreiber recognized Rich Garrett, Second Alarmers, who was present this evening to answer any questions by the Board.

Police Department Report:

Chief Livingood said on the agenda this evening are three promotions of three sergeants to the rank of lieutenant. As previously discussed, we normally have seven lieutenants, and by early 2018, we plan to reduce that number to six. Currently, we have three lieutenants, so these promotions will total six.

On April 25th, we completed the last of eight sessions of department-wide training for 2017 and our non-sworn employees are also required to learn about topics relevant to their assignments.

Tonight, a copy of the quarterly report was distributed on Automated Red Light Enforcement Program (ARLE) to the Board. Reports shows crashes are down by 14% as compared to the same time period in year #2 and down 45% as compared to the same time period in year #1.

In regards to the opioid epidemic in Abington Township, 40 overdose calls were responded to from January 1st through April 30th, 2017 and Abington Police and Second Alarmers administered Narcan with positive results except in one case where the victim did not survive.

Traffic Safety Officer Freed reminded everyone about the June Safety Traffic Blitz upcoming next month. Signs will be provided at the end of May.

Ordinance No. 2138 – To Amend 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; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing).

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Ordinance No. 2138 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; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing) at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on May 11, 2017 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.

First Conditional Promotion to the Rank of Lieutenant

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to promote Sergeant Christopher Porter to the rank of Probationary Lieutenant effective May 12, 2017 providing 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.

Second Conditional Promotion to the Rank of Lieutenant

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to promote Sergeant Steven Fink to the rank of Probationary Lieutenant effective May 12, 2017 providing 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.

Third Conditional Promotion to the Rank of Lieutenant

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to promote Sergeant Edward Quinn to the rank of Probationary Lieutenant effective May 12, 2017 providing 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.

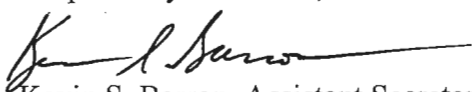
Commissioner Schreiber asked for any general comments relating to Public Safety.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, questioned whether all fire equipment and conditions of the consent order of August 3rd were met for the Colonade property.

Solicitor Clarke noted that this is an ongoing legal matter and it would not be in the best interest of the Township to respond to these questions.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin S. Barron, Assistant Secretary

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