

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:24 p.m.

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

Township Manager MANFREDI
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Chief of Police LIVINGOOD

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Police Department Report:

Chief Livingood mentioned that we had a very successful 4th of July Parade/Fireworks.

Also, this afternoon, we had our 7th fatal drug overdose of the year, and although Narcan was administered along with other lifesaving measures, the victim did not survive. On Friday, a press release was sent to the Board from the District Attorney about the arrest made in the fatal overdose of a 58-year old female from Roslyn. As a result of the investigation, Abington Police along with Montgomery County Detectives made an arrest charge of a criminal homicide drug delivery resulting in death. A new policy has been implemented at the request of the District Attorney to work hand-in-hand as well as the DEA and social services to help individuals addicted to powerful drugs.

On July 1st, there was a robbery at the QDOBA Mexican Grill located at 261 Old York Road in which a press release was sent out and photos were released to the media in the hopes that someone will recognize something about it.

Commissioner Schreiber acknowledged Rich Garrett, Second Alarmers, who previously submitted a report.

Ordinance No. 2140 To Amend 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; No Stopping Or Standing” and Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise Ordinance No. 2140 (attached) 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; No Stopping Or Standing” and Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones” for adoption at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Schreiber noted there is no date certain listed in the motion.

Manager Manfredi replied the date requested was the August Board voting meeting and that will be the date, but if there are other similar requests by the Commissioners, he asked for them to be sent to staff for review in advance and then we will compile them together for advertisement, which would be more cost-effective.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Zappone referred to the ordinance where it says, “Garfield Avenue - East – 30 feet north of Woodrow Avenue and clarified that the sign will be placed on Woodrow and not on Garfield. Is that correct?

Manager Manfredi replied this came to him from Officer Freed, so he assumes it is accurate.

Commissioner Zappone said the sign should be placed on Woodrow Avenue 30 feet back from the corner of Garfield Avenue, and he will speak to Officer Freed about it.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for the motion to be amended to include the locations.

Manager Manfredi said the draft ordinance identifies what is taking place on this agenda and it will be on the agenda again in eight days, and when that is done, it will be advertised and there will be a public hearing on that ordinance.

Commissioner Schreiber clarified that Ms. Lehmann is asking for the name of the locations to be listed in the motion.

Manager Manfredi replied that is something that can be done.

Commissioner Spiegelman noted that when these items come up the Commissioners get the word out to the residents in their ward.

Raymond Bell, 2076 Parkview Avenue, asked if four Commissioners at different times send in requests does that mean constituents will need to wait until they are consolidated.

Manager Manfredi replied since there were several requests by Commissioners and not all were reviewed, he is requesting to put this off for two weeks, so all requests can be added, just this one time.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

3rd Conditional Appointment Probationary Police Officer

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to appoint candidate Kenneth Witter from the Certified Civil Service Eligibility List to the position of Probationary Police Officer provided he successfully completes the Background, Physical and Psychological tests and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission for Act 120 Training. Appointment will be effective September 5, 2017.

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 4-0.

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

Commissioner Myers asked will the Board be revisiting the matter of the tax credits for volunteer emergency responders?

Manager Manfredi replied yes, Fire Marshal and Fire Department personnel are putting together the numbers for review, so it is anticipated that matter will back before the Board in August.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she thought extra costs were paid so as to receive DNA testing results quicker.

Chief Livingood replied that every person who is arrested and convicted of a crime their DNA is tested and submitted to the Pennsylvania State Police Lab, and results take one year from the time it is submitted due to a huge back log. When the PSP submits DNA to the national database, there is no cost to taxpayers.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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