

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:18 p.m.

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

Township Manager MANFREDI
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Chief of Police LIVINGOOD

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, FARREN, MYERS, ROTHMAN, SANCHEZ, DiPLACIDO, ZAPPONE, BRODSKY, GILLESPIE

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Police Department Report:

Chief Livingood reported that last Saturday, the police department participated in the “National Take Back Drugs” day, and we collected three boxes of drugs weighing 86.4 lbs and they were taken to the collection point along with six other boxes previously collected totaling 131 lbs. Abington accepts these drugs 24-hours a day, seven days a week with the exception of liquids and hypodermic needles for the safety of the staff.

As a result from investigation of late-night theft from unlocked vehicles, Abington Police Department issued an arrest warrant of a suspect, and on October 27, 2017, that suspect turned himself in to answer to those charges.

As a result of another ongoing investigation by Abington Police, our officers working with DEA arrested an individual in Philadelphia today and seized 350 bags of heroin, and in total during this investigation 900 bags of heroin were seized from same individual.

Also, Abington has experienced a number of burglaries as well as Cheltenham Township occurring during the dinner hour and we are working with other agencies to try and solve these crimes as quickly as possible. There has been another rash of burglaries occurring during late night occupied house burglaries where residents are asleep and leave a window unlocked and someone slips in and steals items of value from the lower level of the home. We have devoted a lot of police resources to it and we are making some progress in that case.

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

Consider Bids for Police Equipment and Uniforms

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to award the contract for furnishing Police Equipment to American Uniform Sales, Inc. and to award the contract for furnishing Police Uniforms to Red the Uniform Tailor.

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.

Affirm and Promote Deputy Chief Patrick Molloy as Chief of Police

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to affirm and promote Deputy Chief Patrick Molloy as the Chief of Police effective February 1, 2018 or whenever current Chief John A. Livingood retires, whichever is sooner.

Chief Livingood commented that this item along with Item PS3 of the agenda is part of our succession plan that will make for a smooth transition of leadership within the police department and these fine individuals will carry our department over with flying colors in the future.

Commissioner Schreiber commented that she is both sad and happy about this motion. We are sad to see Chief Livingood eventually retire whenever that day comes, but happy about our succession.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kalinoski commented that it is a great future for Abington, thank you.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Affirm and appoint Lieutenant Kelley Warner to Deputy Chief of Police

Commissioner Schreiber said this is for information only to affirm and appoint Lieutenant Kelley Warner as Deputy Chief of Police Effective November 13, 2017.

Chief Livingood added that this is an appointment that is not a Civil Service promotion and for information only at this time. The appointment of Lieutenant Kelley Warner as Deputy Chief of Police will be done at the full Board meeting next week.

Promotion of Officer Joseph Blei to the Rank of Sergeant

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to appoint and approve the promotion of Officer Joseph Blei to Police Sergeant effective November 13, 2017.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners. 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.

Commissioner Spiegelman congratulated Lieutenant Kelley Warner who is about to be Deputy Chief.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she is happy to see Deputy Chief Molloy coming in. She does not understand why solicitors are not wearing a “neck band and soliciting without permits.”

Nancy Hammeke-Marshall, 1916 Hilltop Road, Director of Abington Free Library, thanked Chief Livingood for being so responsive to a request she made on behalf of her staff. She asked him to attend a library staff meeting and he did and answered all of their questions regarding safety. Tom McAneney, Emergency Management Administrator, will attend our staff meeting in November and then come back a week later to perform a drill.

Dan Mellon, 228 Church Road, questioned whether there are certificates of insurance protecting our Township and citizens from potential lawsuits in case certain safety conditions are not met in regards to high rise structures. He asked for a copy of “documentation of a legal deal that is unsafe.”

Solicitor Clarke replied the Township is completely protected and there is no exposure or liability.

Commissioner Schreiber suggested to Mr. Mellon to file a “Right To Know” request.

Commissioner Spiegelman clarified that when the police are called about a solicitor and they are found to not have a permit, the solicitors are fined.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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