

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, KALINOSKI, BOWMAN, FARREN SR.

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

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, MYERS, GILLESPIE, ZAPPONE, HECKER, SPIEGELMAN, SANCHEZ, JONES, JR.

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner DiPlacido to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Schreiber congratulated Montgomery County Commissioner Josh Shapiro, who was appointed as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Chief Kelly added that it is a great honor for County Commissioner Josh Shapiro to be appointed in that position by Governor Wolf. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for many years has been the driving force behind law enforcement and criminal justice.

All funding for our DARE program including training came from that Commission as well as for our Community Policing and Crime Prevention programs, and he looks forward to working with Commissioner Shapiro.

Police Department Report:

Chief Kelly reported that there have been ongoing scams where those who file their tax returns and then find out that someone else filed their return and the refund was sent to them. The victim should call the police and then a report is made and we work with the Federal authorities on it.

Also, there have been credit cards compromised in the Glenside section of our Township. There is a device that criminals' use that is placed on the front of ATM machines that copies information from the magnetic strip and those devices have been found in convenient stores, gas pumps and banks, and victims need to report it to the police.

There was an announcement made on the news last night about an arrest made by our Police Officers at the Target Store on Old York Road of a person who was using a recording device by putting it underneath dressing room doors. Stores have now taken precautions so this cannot be repeated, and because of work done by officials of Target and surveillance by our Officers, a speedy arrest was made.

There has also been a burglary trend that has begun again in the evenings during sunset time, so we made dramatic changes in employment of personnel with the intention of apprehending the criminals. In a short period of time, burglaries were committed in Abington and surrounding communities and, just before doing another job in Lower Moreland, our Officers spotted them, followed them and made an arrest.

Regarding the use of Narcan by our Police Officers; with the cooperation, training and assistance of the Second Alarmers, there have been a few administrations by our Officers saving lives. There are a number of Officers who have medical background from each platoon and they have volunteered for these special assignments, so they are the most proficient in using it.

Chief Rich Garrett of Second Alarmers added that just a second or two or even two minutes using Narcan can save someone's life.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked how would someone find out if their goods were stolen by burglars?

Chief Kelly replied items found are matched up with reports of stolen items and using that information they are returned, but if they cannot be returned to their rightful owner in that manner, we also display the items for the victims so they can identify their goods.

Ordinance No. 2091 – 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

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Ordinance No. 2091 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) for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on April 9, 2015.

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.

Ordinance No. 2096 – To Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” - Article III  
(Parking Regulations), Section 28 – (Special Purpose Parking Zones) for adoption at the  
regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on May 14, 2015

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise Ordinance No. 2096 amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article III (Parking Regulations), Section 28 – (Special Purpose Parking Zones) for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on May 14, 2015.

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.

Ordinance No. 2092 – Amending Chapter 155 – “Traffic Control,” Article I –  
“Automated Red Light Enforcement Systems,” Section 155-7 – “Duties of the Township  
of Abington”

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 Kline thanked Chief Kelly and Deputy Chief Livingood for doing an outstanding job meeting with residents providing information and making suggestions in regards to issues of crime, which was video taped with a link on Township website as well as televised on the Township's television channel.

Commissioner Hecker thanked Chief Kelly and members of the Police Department for their communication with him in regards to sensitive and difficult issues relating to the Target Store.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about when her road will be paved. Also, there were several incidents of crime in her neighborhood and she was concerned about becoming a victim of crime and she feels "we need to employ every effort to combat crime."

Commissioner Kline replied he has never questioned how Chief Kelly and Deputy Chief Livingood investigate any crime issues in the Township and he has all the confidence in the world in our Police Department. It is completely unfair that someone who complains about every single thing to come up here and question the integrity and the ability of the Abington Township Police Department.

Commissioner Myers said many women go to the Target store and use the dressing room; what will happen to the video tape that the criminal used on the victims?

Chief Kelly replied we will use it to identify any potential victims and locate them, and that video tape will never see the light of day as it is evidence and locked up and, to do anything else with that evidence, would be a violation of law.

Raymond Bell, 2076 Parkview Avenue, commented that the meeting with Chief Kelly, Deputy Chief Livingood and Commissioner Kline was very informative. No one likes crime and no one can prevent it, but when the community is more aware of what they can contribute, it helps to minimize crime in this Township.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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