

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:01 p.m.

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

Township Manager LEFEVRE  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Fire Marshal CLARK  
Chief of Police KELLY  
Traffic Safety Officer FREED  
Legal Counsel GALLAGHER

Also Present: Commissioners MYERS, GILLESPIE, HECKER, SPIEGELMAN, JONES, SANCHEZ

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2014 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Police Department Report:

Chief Kelly said in regards to the Safety Transfer Zone, which is located in the lobby of the Police Department and the place where residents who buy items from craigslist can make the exchange; the Department has received a lot of attention about it and calls from the news media from those who thought it was a great idea.

Also, Saskatchewan Canada has developed a program for resolving community issues and reducing crime and they call it, "Collaborative Strategies and Improved Community Wellness and Safety." It is getting a lot of attention around the world as an innovative way to address community issues, and they are bringing it to the United States to Penn State University, who chose Abington as one of the three communities to be a test site in Pennsylvania.

Abington was chosen because of its involvement with progressive programs in the past and the tremendous results that the School District has achieved for our youth programs.

We are gathering together Social Services and other agencies to attend this event on February 11, 2015 where there will be a teleconference from Saskatchewan at the three locations in the State including here in Abington to introduce us to that new process.

Ordinance No. 2087 – to Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Ordinance No. 2087 amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article II (Traffic Regulations), and Section 14 (Stop Intersections).

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Ordinance No. 2088 – To Amend Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic” – Establishing Chapter 16 – “Towing”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise Ordinance No. 2088 amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic), Establishing Chapter 160 – “Towing.”

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Farren asked for further explanation on this item.

Chief Kelly replied over the last several years, Township Manager’s Office as well as the Police Department has received numerous complaints regarding issues about certain towing companies charging exorbitant fees for towing vehicles. They are also doing some underhanded practices where spotters check private property parking lots and post it and then when they see vehicles parked there call the towing companies who tow the cars away. So this ordinance will rectify that and make it a more uniformed situation.

Commissioner Farren asked for an example of those exorbitant fees.

Chief Kelly replied there were fees in the amount of \$200-\$250. In addition, they were towing vehicles from lots not properly posted and this ordinance also addresses signage, because if it is on property that is properly posted, they cannot tow the vehicle.

Commissioner Farren asked how the fees listed in proposed ordinance were determined.

Ms. Gallagher replied this ordinance was drafted after review of ordinances from other municipalities and we met with two Township-duty towers who agreed that the rates were fair.

Commissioner Schreiber asked would a new towing company have to register with the Township?

Ms. Gallagher replied a license is required to be able to tow in the Township and a separate license is required to tow on behalf of the Township. Also two towing companies will be selected annually to tow on behalf of the Township, and the ordinance is complaint-driven.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Resolution No. 15-008 – Emergency Operations Plan Update:

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Resolution No. 15-008 executing the current Abington Township Emergency Operations Plan.

Chief Kelly said in March 2013, the Township hired Tom McAneney as the Township's Emergency Management Administrator for the EMAP and he is here this evening to discuss the adoption of the Emergency Operations Plan.

Emergency Management Presentation:

Tom McAneney, Emergency Management Administrator, gave a power point presentation to the Board.

Three main functions are to maintain and administer our emergency operations plan; provide planning, assistance and training to response agencies as well as our other partners in the Township; and coordinate responses that involve multiple agencies.

We are required by law to have an emergency operations plan, which are Title 35 and PEMA Directive D2007-1. It is updated yearly and we are required to have the ability to staff the emergency operation center and it is also required that the elected Board vote to approve it.

Financial reason for having an emergency operations plan is to be eligible for recovery of disaster funds. The Federal Stafford Act and Disaster Mitigation Act are the two FEMA-related laws that drive our ability to recover funding from FEMA and PEMA.

Since 2010, through efforts of not just emergency management, but all departments of the Township, we were able to recover almost \$800,000 that was expended responding to storms.

Keeping people informed of an emergency is by various methods and there is a special needs mobility registry available for residents.

We operate out of our Emergency Operations Center in the Township's Administration Building. We also use Field Com 2, which is a mobile unit that is owned by the County and operated by our Township that can be brought to the scene of an incident.

He provided the Board with a copy of the Emergency Operations Plan and reviewed the plan with the committee.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Jones questioned whether the Field Com 2 is simply just a mobile unit or does it have the capacity, if something should happen to the emergency center here, to take on that responsibility.

Mr. McAneney replied it is a large truck, but not big enough to operate out of for any length of time.

Commissioner Spiegelman said since Field Com is owned by the County, does it need to respond to an incident outside of the Township and who staffs it?

Mr. McAneney replied we have the capability of staffing it for them.

Commissioner Hecker asked how residents can register for the special needs mobile registry?

Mr. McAneney replied how residents can register is posted on the Emergency Management section of the Township's website and it is also posted in the Township calendar. Also, if there are any questions, residents can call his office to register.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked are residents notified to register for the special needs registry?

Commissioner Gillespie replied it is posted in the Township calendar on how to register for the special needs service.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Bids for Police Uniform Equipment:

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

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Bids for Police Uniforms, Shirts Coats

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

Commissioner Schreiber commented that this was the only bidder and is that typical and have we worked with them previously?

Chief Kelly replied once a vendor creates the uniforms and has all of the materials for the uniforms it is easier to keep their costs down as opposed to a new vendor. So to make sure their costs are competitive, we have compared their price to previous bids and, in the 2015 bid quote, there was only a 3% increase across the board from 2014. In 2016, there will be no increase in price, and in 2017, there will be a 3% increase. The officers get a set clothing allowance so they may be able to buy fewer uniforms, but Township's costs do not increase.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Farren asked for the bid price.

Chief Kelly replied they bid on one of everything and then it depends on how many items the officers' order. The officers get \$475 a year to buy uniforms and police equipment from these two vendors.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Buckle Up PA Seat Belt –Enforcement and Education Project

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to authorize Township officials to accept a grant from the North Central Highway Safety Network in the amount of \$10,000.00. The Department of Transportation previously funded this program through Buckle Up Pennsylvania and is now funding this program through the North Central Highway Safety Network.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked does this money come from PennDOT?

Commissioner Myers replied the agreement says, "The Network has received funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Maintenance and Operations."

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Aggressive Driving Grant

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Farren to authorize Township officials to accept a grant from the North Central Highway Safety Network, Inc. in the amount of \$13,000.00 with the Township's matching portion of \$1,000.00. The Township's match will cover the Social Security cost of the officers working the grant as this expense is not covered by the grant. At the conclusion of the grant, the Social Security expense will be transferred to 01-04-044-5110.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kalinoski questioned whether there was a name change in regards to the Buckle Up Seat Belt and Aggressive Driving grants.

Commissioner Jones replied the Governor's Highway Safety Association's website indicates that North Central Highway Safety Network's statewide highway safety initiative is Buckle Up PA.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Ordinance No. 2090 – To Amend Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic” – Article II – “Traffic Regulations” – Section 7 – “Speed Limits Established”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to advertise Ordinance No. 2090 amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article II (Traffic Regulations), and Section 7 (Speed Limits Established) for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on March 12, 2015.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Hecker commented that this agenda item relates to traffic and pedestrian safety issues on Rockwell Road between Old Welsh and Edge Hill Roads. This portion of the Township comprises of Wards 5, 10, and 11 with the preponderance of the area in Ward 10.

Traffic and pedestrian safety on Rockwell has long been a concern for the residents who live there and the surrounding area. The tragic accident that occurred in November of last year resulted in a loss of life of a nine-year old girl reinforced the community's concerns about pedestrian safety. So he, along with Commissioner Spiegleman in consultation with Commissioner Luker, Township staff and members of the Police Department convened a community meeting in late November to talk with the residents about their longstanding concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety.

We have worked to develop a comprehensive plan to improve traffic and pedestrian safety conditions on Rockwell Road. It involves a number of measures with some already underway and a new street light that has been installed at the 1700 block. Funds from the multi-mobile grant from the State will be received this year and will go towards improving conditions around the Crestmont Train Station that will include installation of sidewalks and crosswalks.

We are looking at the possibility of narrowing the traffic lanes on Rockwell Road as well. So this measure will be part of the comprehensive plan effort and reduce the speed limit on Rockwell Road between Old Welsh and Edge Hill from 35 MPH down to 30 MPH.

It is a piece of a larger puzzle and this motion is a result of efforts by Township staff, Police Department and his fellow Commissioners to do something tangible that will provide long term benefits.

Commissioner Spiegelman added that it has been an exceptionally trying time for the residents of Rockwell Road and these are longstanding concerns that were intensified by the horrible loss of life. He thanked everyone involved in putting this ordinance together and especially Commissioner Hecker for his exceptional leadership on this issue. It was an honor to work with him on this matter.

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.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she feels her road is dangerous because it needs to be repaved.

Commissioner Schreiber suggested that if anyone has large potholes on their street, to please call their Commissioner or the Township.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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