

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA, with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:34 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, ROTHMAN, THOMPSON, VAHEY

Township Manager MANFREDI  
Assistant Township Manager WEYMEYER  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Township Engineer MONTGOMERY  
Chief of Police MOLLOY  
Police Lieutenant PORTER  
Traffic Safety Officer FREED

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, ZAPPONE, BRODSKY, CARSWELL, THOMPSON, WINEGRAD, SPIEGELMAN, MYERS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner DiPlacido made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of September 4, 2019.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Police Department Report:

Chief Molloy said it is breast cancer awareness month, and he approved that the police officers who purchased pink police shirts to wear them on Fridays. The department's largest fundraiser for PAL (Police Athletic League) is its Food Festival to be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Philmont Country Club, and this is the 18<sup>th</sup> year for this event that funds children's programs. This year it is called, "PAL Food, Wine and Craft Beer Fest," and this year's theme is "PALoween."

Traffic safety; on September 30<sup>th</sup>, the traffic safety blitz ended and please take down the lawn signs and hold them until next June. Also in September digital messaging signs were posted especially for the new Penn State students reminding them about the red light camera intersections.

The department participated in “Operation Clear Track” sponsored by SEPTA to raise awareness at the crossings. Also, we will be participating in “Operation Safe Stop” on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, which will be a blitz on school bus violations.

Crimes; theft from motor vehicles, 99% of the time these thefts occur when vehicles are left unlocked. Also, there has been a nuisance crime where middle school-age children who are riding their bicycles on the double-yellow line intentionally stopping traffic, using profanity and getting in the face of motorists, which is dangerous for the children as well as the motorists, and call 9-1-1 as there is zero tolerance for it.

**PRESENTATION:**

Fire Training Facility Video – ATFD Responding:

Mr. Dave Schramm, Fire Services Administrator, said as part of our new member recruitment program, we developed a series of short videos. The first one was called, “Answer the Call,” which was viewed over 39,000 times. We thought we would show respective members and the community our magnificent fire training facility and fire training programs and presented the video. Next Monday night begins a series of five open houses in celebration of “Fire Prevention Week;” schedule is posted on Township website.

Fire Marshal John Rohrer said the real reason behind “Fire Prevention Week” is that in 1871, the city of Chicago burnt to the ground, 300 lives were lost and 100,000 people were homeless, and at that time, their fire department was the size of ATFD. That fire burned a path in Chicago that would have taken out Roslyn, Ardsley and North Hills in total, so fire prevention is everyone’s job, not every hero wears a cape, and all of us can prevent a fire.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – general matters relating to Public Safety:**

Joe Rooney, 740 Maple Avenue, stated that “my brother worked for the APD, and I would like to buy him a pink police shirt.”

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, stated that “advertising for a hearing is so not the first step. People with flooding and quality of life issues affect their safety causing stress and money diverted from it, is wrong.”

Natalie Sherstyuk, 1165 Delene Road, stated that “the EDC is not a good idea where public safety is concerned. We have major traffic problems in this Township and we are over-developing and there is a high risk of motor vehicle accidents and children perishing from those accidents, so from a public safety standpoint, I urge you to reconsider what is happening with this EDC. Regarding consent agenda, it is used for non-controversial items to save time and clearly this is a controversial issue, although it was removed from consent agenda, it creates a distrust between residents and yourselves.”

Manager Manfredi clarified that the consent agenda works exactly as this Board designed it to work. It is non-controversial and routine to place on the consent agenda an item to only advertise a hearing. Every Commissioner on this Board is concerned about openness, transparency and doing things the right way, and the consent agenda is set up, so that if any member of this Board wants to pull an item from it and place it on the regular agenda for public discussion rather than just approving it by consent, that can happen and it did. Commissioner Myers requested that the item be pulled from the consent agenda and place it on the regular agenda and Commissioner Kline pulled it and placed it on the regular agenda. It was considered as a regular agenda item and not a consent agenda item and that is how the system is supposed to work and that’s how it worked.

Also, as required by law, the Township advertises in newspapers of general circulation and it was advertised on Township’s website including social media.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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