

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SCHREIBER, SPIEGELMAN, KALINOSKI

Excused: DiPLACIDO, BOWMAN

Township Manager LEFEVRE

Township Solicitor CLARKE

Fire Marshal CLARK

Chief of Police KELLY

Traffic Safety Officer FREED

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

Police Department Report:

Chief Kelly reported that over the past year, there were 14 administrations of Naloxone (Narcan) resulting in saving lives. It has been such a successful program that many other departments are getting onboard with it.

There is a County Youth Police Forum Program where they bring in young people who, in some cases may have been involved with the law, and there is a day-long session with police officers where there is role-play and interchange. The first program took place yesterday in Jenkintown where our officers participated in.

An incident occurred this past week in the Ardsley section of the Township where someone went jogging and lost their gun. The jogger was in parts of Abington and Upper Dublin, so both police departments did some thorough searching, but to no avail.

He gave a slide presentation on statistics from 2015 to the Board. There were 42 violent crimes in 2015 as compared to 60 in 2014. Part I Crimes – are the major crimes such as robberies, burglaries, arsons and murders, and in 2015, there were 975 as compared to 1,193 in 2014. There were 816 thefts in 2015 as compared to 961 in 2014; 13 aggravated assaults in 2015 as compared to 31 in 2014; 83 burglaries in 2015 as compared to 134 in 2014; and calls for service in 2015 were 47,341 as compared to 47,991 in 2014. So the trend is that crime has gone down.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for a copy of this presentation to be sent to the Board.

Commissioner Schreiber asked about the upcoming CAPT (Citizens and Police Together) Academy.

Lt. Warner replied that on March 3, 2016, the CAPT Academy will begin and Officer Roger Gillespie spearheads that successful program in which there are eight sessions.

Ordinance No. 2108 – 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. 2108 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) at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on February 11, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Hecker thanked Officer Freed for this item, which is in regards to the Township-owned space adjacent to the school bus depot on Huntingdon Road. That space was converted for overflow parking and Ordinance No. 2108 will establish “No Parking Between Signs” on the west side of Huntingdon Road five (5) feet north and five (5) feet south of the Abington School District Bus Garage parking lot.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

Ordinance No. 2114 – To Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article III (Parking Regulations) Section 9.2 (No Left Turn), and Section 11 (Turns at Intersections)

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to advertise Ordinance No. 2114 amending Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article III (Parking Regulations) Section 9.2 – (No Left Turn), and Section 11 – (Turns at Intersections) for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on March 10, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 3-0.

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

Michael Curtis, Sr., 1137 Tyson Avenue, thanked Officer Freed for enforcing the overhead flashing “school zone” signs, and he suggested bringing that sign down to eye level for motorists to be able to see them better. Also, there are drivers blocking Keith Road when Highland Elementary School lets out, and he asked what can be done about that.

Traffic Safety Freed replied that flashing “school zone” lights are permitted by PennDOT and they are by specification in their warrant process on how those lights are to be installed.

In regards to Keith Road and the parking issue; we are aware of that situation and working with not only officials of the School District, but also parking enforcement personnel.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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