

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

CALL TO ORDER: 7:28 p.m.

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

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

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

MINUTES: Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Commissioner Schreiber congratulated the Abington Township Fire Department on their achievement of maintaining Fire Department Accreditation International. The Abington Township Fire Department maintained the accredited agency status for another year, and the department was commended for continuous progress towards excellence to sustain and improve their customer service program and services to the community.

Congratulations on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington.

Police Department Report:

Chief Livingood reported that after a recent hiring, the department's authorized strength is 92 officers, but currently we are at 89. Item PS2, if approved, will bring the department to 90 officers, the other two vacancies will be filled from a new list. Applicants can apply online only at www.abingtonpd.org and deadline to apply is March 17 at 4 p.m.

Also, we are dismayed about the recent hate crimes across our entire country and in this region as well, and preparation has been done to best deal with these types of situations if they should occur in Abington.

This past weekend, there were hateful Anti-Semitism markings including Swastikas and staff of the Parks and Recreation Department is aware of it making sure it will be removed as soon as possible. All officers are aware of this serious crime and it has no place in Abington Township. We will do everything we can to prevent it from happening or catch whoever it is doing it and prosecute them.

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

Traffic Safety Officer Freed announced that one of our officers, Officer Bryan Rickards was recently diagnosed with ALS and a benefit will be held for him on Saturday, April 8th from 7-11 p.m. at the North Penn VFW. We hope to see everyone there to support Officer Rickards and his family.

Ordinance No. 2137 – 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 advertise Ordinance No. 2137 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 13, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

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

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for the location of the amendment.

Commissioner Schreiber replied 20 feet north and south of the existing crosswalks at Sylvania Avenue as listed in the ordinance.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Conditional Appointment – Probationary Police Officer

Commissioner Schreiber made MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to appoint candidate Morgan Pfaff from the Certified Civil Service Eligibility List to the position of Probationary Police Officer provided she successfully completes the Background, Physical and Psychological tests and all entry requirements of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission for Act 120 Training. Appointment will be effective July 5, 2017.

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.

Police Lieutenants Contract

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve an employment contract with the Police Lieutenants incorporating the same employment benefit changes resulting from the 2016 arbitration award for the Township Police Association. All other benefits to remain the same.

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

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked if the DROP program is negotiated into it.

Manager LeFevre replied proposed agreement incorporates all changes in the Rank and File Arbitration award from 2016. No additional benefits are added. All police officers including Lieutenants are covered by the DROP Program.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

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

Lora Lehman, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels "monies should be spent on safety issues first before being spent elsewhere."

Public Safety Committee Meeting

March 1, 2017

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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