

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Services Commission regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was open to the public, and a link to join the meeting via Zoom was listed on the agenda posted on the Township's website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Dakin
Joe Roscioli
Janice Gottesfeld
Kevin Moore

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Pam Gural-Bear, Assistant Township Manager
Ed Culp, Assistant Director of Public Works
Caroline O'Connor, Public Works Coordinator

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes for the meeting of June 2, 2021, were tabled to the September meeting due there not being a quorum of members in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Friends of the Parks Concert Series gets underway on Sunday, August 8th and 22nd with Chico's Vibe and the Slippery Band playing at the Gazebo in Miller Park beginning at 6:30 p.m.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

1. Police Update
a. Police Accreditation (PLEAC)

Chief Lee Benson provided an overview of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association Accreditation Program. The WWT Police Department is one of the agencies across the Commonwealth who are accredited and must comply with 145 professional standards.

What is Accreditation?

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program to the Commonwealth in July 2001. Since then, over 375 agencies have enrolled and 131 agencies currently maintain accredited status.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals is assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost-effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The underlying philosophy of the program is to have a user-friendly undertaking for the departments that will result in a "success" oriented outcome.

Your law enforcement peers want the program to be consistent and achievable for all types and sizes of law enforcement agencies within Pennsylvania. That perspective has been used in the development of the program and in its implementation. Whether your agency has 10 personnel, 100 members, or a cadre of thousands, you and your department can successfully undertake and complete the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

Of course there will be complex work involved, but that is true of any professional project that is worth accomplishing. However, the Commission Members, the accreditation staff, and the accreditation coalition support groups in various parts of the state are in place to assist you and your personnel with the process leading to accredited status and Commission recognition and certification.

The benefits of being an accredited agency are:

- Establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures
- Reduces agency risk and exposure to lawsuits
- Decreases some liability insurance expenditures
- Improves law enforcement – community relations
- Increases employee input, interaction and confidence in the agency
- Enlarges the outlook and viewpoints of managers, officers and employees
- Identifies and highlights the capabilities and competence of the agency
- Furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress
- Provides reliable methods to improve essential management procedures
- Extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials
- Enhances planning and innovative activities by all agency personnel
- Develops improved methods for providing services to the community
- Encourages problem-solving activities within the agency

Once an agency becomes accredited, they must be re-certified every 3 years. The department is currently preparing for their reassessment scheduled for fall.

b. Traffic Control

Chief Lee Benson reviewed the traffic control measures that the Department undertakes within the township. The Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit proactively conducts traffic details within the Township to reduce the risk of accidents due to traffic related infractions. On the Department's Crimewatch page, you are able to view speed study information that has been collected by the various digital speed signs from within the Township.

The Chief elaborated on residents and concerned citizens may express their traffic concerns about speeding or any traffic issues in a specific location by submitting a traffic related complaint via the site or calling in to the station.

In addition, the Chief discussed various ways that the Department partners with Public Works to help mitigate traffic issues and to calm the speeds down on Township roadways.

2. Energy Transition Priorities

a. Cadmus Study

Caroline O'Connor, who is the Township's staff liaison to the Clean Energy Future committee comprised of the members of the West Chester Area's Council of Governments, reached out to the Commission members for their thoughts and recommendations on future energy projects for 2022. She reminded the group of the EV charging stations that the Township installed last year as one of the low hanging fruit projects that was implemented and is currently in use.

Discussion ensued on possible projects including solar panels for government-owned facilities as well as the need for EV batteries to hold their charge for long trips.

OBSERVATIONS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Kevin Moore made a motion, seconded by Janice Gottesfeld, to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Kevin Moore, Secretary