

## MINUTES

**PUBLIC SAFETY AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 29, 2019**

**The following Committee Members were in ATTENDANCE:**

Dave Holl	Director of Department of Public Safety
Richard Schin	Board of Commissioners
Dean Villone	Board of Commissioners
Tom Vernau	Township Manager
Erin Trone	Economic Development
Leon Crone	Police Captain
Frank Wirth	Fire Captain
Dave Murdoch	Fire Chief – Lower Allen Fire Company
Frank Williamson	Fire Chief – Lisburn Comm Fire Company
Don Smith	Capital City Mall
Dick Bonneville	Township Resident – Beacon Hill
Dick Hammon	Township Resident – Rossmoyne
Tom Kutz	Township Resident – Sheepford
Ped Young	Township Resident – Beaver Road Area
Chris Pushart	Township Resident – Allendale

**The following members of the audience were in attendance:** John Neyhard, 104 Ewe Road, and Robert Hoobler, 4501 Woods Way.

### **WELCOME**

Director Holl called the April 29, 2019 meeting of the 2019 Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee to order at 6:05 pm in the Youth Center of Christ Community Church, 1201 Slate Hill Road, Camp Hill. He welcomed members of the audience in attendance and stated public comments would be welcomed at the conclusion of the meeting. Members of the Committee introduced themselves for the benefit of the public.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Young moved to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2019 Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Mr. Kutz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **MEETING FOLLOW-UP**

Director Holl stated that he has only received one feedback form. He encouraged Committee members to return them and plans to create an electronic version. Mr. Bonneville asked if Committee members could tour the Police Department. This will be included with the Fire Department tour planned for the next meeting which will be held in the EOC.

**PRESENTATION FOLLOW-UP**

Captain Crone began tonight’s presentation by answering some of the questions from the previous meeting’s Police Presentation. He corrected the figure given for the Budget Impact of Patrol Officer Plan from \$350,000 to \$422,605.50. This takes into account the hiring of four police officers. Patrol intervals were discussed. With one officer out on patrol he or she would pass the same point once in 8.5 hours. This changes to 1.7 hours with five officers out. Lower Allen Township’s Police Department would fall in the middle of that range due to staffing. Captain Crone also presented a graph showing the average leave use of the police officers.

<b>Type of Leave Used</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Vacation	148.36
Sick	82.88
Comp	34.01
Personal	39.89

Comp time is earned as overtime when an officer chooses not to take the money for the time worked. An officer’s comp time does not carry over and cannot be used if it creates a need for overtime. Average response time was also discussed. Over the past six years, the response time has stayed fairly equal, with a 3 minute difference between the highest and lowest average responses.

**POLICE PROGRAMATIC PRESENTATION**

Captain Crone spoke about the importance of Patrol and the many roles that the patrol officers fill during any given shift. The Police Department currently consists of 12 Patrol Officers, 4 Corporals, and a Sergeant. More officers are needed to keep up with anticipated growth in the Township.

**ADVANCED LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR)**

He spoke about a new source of technology that will be available to the officers in the near future. Lower Allen Township was chosen as a test site for a Fixed System Automated License Plate Reader or ALPR. This device will be mounted at the intersection of Lower Allen Drive and Route 15 where many people leaving the commercial areas will pass under it. It will notify officers if it detects stolen cars, wanted people associated with vehicles, or expired registrations. Director Holl added that this is an investigative tool that will save the officers’ time.

**RECORDS**

The Police Record Management system used by Lower Allen Township is called CODY. It stores all of the incidents, complaints, and logs, and can be used to generate many types of reports. We also participate in COBRA which is a shared database that 158 agencies use including 14 local agencies. Another valuable tool is Power DMS. This system alleviates taking officers off the streets for training sessions and updates that they can go in and read on their downtime. It also manages the accreditation data.

**PROGRAMS RECEIVING GRANT MONEY**

Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Click It or Ticket are two programs paid for by grant money. Route 15 has been designated as an Aggressive Driving Corridor. The grant pays for officers to work these special details as they are available for overtime pay.

### **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS / DRUG TASK FORCE**

Major crimes are covered in this section such as arson, homicide, cybercrime such as fraud, and Childline cases. These investigations can be very time intensive. This is also where all of the background checks are done for future employees. There is currently video in the patrol cars but no bodycams. We have two fulltime detectives and one detective who shares time with the Drug Task Force as well. Mr. Villone questioned how many of the Childline cases end up being bogus. Captain Crone stated that more are cleared unfounded than founded but the procedure has to be followed. The Drug Task Force is a County wide organization and they partially reimburse the Township for the detective who works with them and with Lower Allen Township.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS**

The Police Records staff handles incoming citations and complaints, schedules the officers for hearings, and greets the public at the window. Copies of reports and finger printing are also services offered. House checks are a service offered to residents who are out of town or have properties that are temporarily vacant. The house check form is completed and records staff inform County Dispatch as well as the CSO's and officers to regularly check on the property.

### **K9 PROGRAM**

This program was started in 2013 with the arrival of Lower Allen Police Department's first K9 Rocco. His handler is Officer Scarlato. The Township covers the officer's salary and cost of the patrol car. The purchase of the K9 and his training, food, and healthcare are paid for by donations. Rocco can alert to marijuana and opioids. He has 2 to 3 years left of service. The Township will have to decide if the K9 program is going to continue. Mr. Kutz asked what it would cost to get a new dog and Mr. Williamson said approximately \$20,000.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

Coffee with a Cop is a recent community outreach program that is quite successful. It is currently held at Starbucks once per month. It takes one to four officers for two hours. The public is encouraged to interact with the officers and sometimes problems are addressed during this time. The connection with the public helps to build relationships and trust. Street to Strip is another outreach program where youth can participate in character building and ultimately race against the "Kop Kar". Two of the officers that drive the "Kop Kar" are from Lower Allen Township.

### **CRIMEWATCH/SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Hootsuite allow information to be dispersed quickly to a large number of subscribers. Lost dogs posted on Facebook have greatly increased followers of Lower Allen's social media. The Crimewatch program in particular has proven to be a very useful tool in getting tips resulting in arrests and warrant services.

### **ACCREDITATION**

Lower Allen Township is accredited by two different programs: CALEA (international organization) and PLEAC (state organization). The police department is evaluated by officials from the organizations and must meet high standards to qualify. The accreditation program keeps the police department accountable and on top of new legal mandates. Mr. Bonneville asked what the costs are for participation in these programs. Captain Crone stated that PLEAC costs \$1000 for four years and CALEA costs \$5000 per year.

There is a part-time employee who works on accreditation and Captain Crone puts a lot of work into preparing for reviews. Mr. Villone asked if being accredited helps the police department attract new employees. It is a helpful recruitment tool and one of our current employees found our police department by searching for accredited police departments.

### **TRACS**

The police department began using TRACS software in July of 2018. It allows for scanning of drivers licenses on traffic stops and reduces time spent in vulnerable situations by the officers while writing traffic tickets. Data collected is transferred automatically into the records system. Most of the cars are outfitted with the necessary hardware to use TRACS and a matching fund grant covered much of the cost.

### **ALARM PERMITS AND BILLING**

Many businesses and residences have alarm systems. The cost of response to false alarms is offset in part by alarm permits and false alarm billing. This is done through our records management system, CODY. It is also a source of revenue for the Township.

### **CAMERA REGISTRY**

This low cost program allows residents and businesses to register their camera security systems. In the event of a crime in the vicinity, the police department will sometimes ask people to review their camera footage. Registration of camera systems is going to become more important as Crimewatch is increasing.

### **TEAM PROGRAM**

The TEAM (Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring) program is used in elementary and middle schools to discourage students from using drugs and alcohol. DARE was formerly used, but TEAM was found to be more flexible in allowing users to choose the modules that are applicable to a given situation. A TEAM officer will spend approximately 90 hours in the schools per year. Lower Allen Township has an officer who is a trainer for the state. That generates revenue which goes into youth programs.

### **FORENSIC UNIT**

This program is headed up by Mr. Dave Ickler, our forensic technician. The detectives and trained crime scene personnel also help out. He arrives at crime scenes with everything needed to process them. The Township recently purchased a new vehicle for this purpose. Mr. Schin asked if Mr. Ickler is teaching anyone else to succeed him since he has so much valuable experience. He is working on teaching the detectives when there is time. At the County level, the District Attorney's office is in charge of the county crime scene unit. They only come out for "major" cases and the information gathered is slow to get returned. Mr. Ickler provides information flow, timely reports, and clears cases quickly for Lower Allen Township.

### **VEHICLE MAINTENANCE / QUARTERMASTER**

The coordination of vehicle maintenance and equipment inventory, repair, and ordering is completed by Lieutenant Thomas and Dave Ickler. The detectives, gear, and non-patrol items fall under Lieutenant Thomas. A copy of the vehicle replacement plan was included in the hand-out from Captain Crone. The goal is to get money for resale of vehicles and there is a 5+ year plan for every vehicle.

### **TI TRAINER (FIREARMS SIMULATOR)**

This is a valuable training tool which helps officers with decision making skills and mental training based on a created scenario. It was purchased by Lower Allen Township but at least six other agencies pay to use the equipment for their personnel.

### **ANIMAL COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION**

The Police Department responds to many calls each year for lost and found pets. In most cases, owners are reunited with their pet. Otherwise an attempt is made to place the animal with a foster group or in the Humane Society. A picture and notice of the pet is always shared on social media.

### **INTEGRATED RESPONSE**

This a focused training response that involves Police, EMS and Fire Fighters all working together in a worst case scenario situation. Captain Crone stated that each area of first responders is in a good place and headed in the right direction with their own training, but there is a need for everyone to train together. A drill at Cedar Cliff High School is being planned for this summer. Director Holl is also hoping to hire someone soon who is dedicated to planning these sorts of drills.

### **SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM**

This county-wide team is based out of Carlisle and run by the DA's office. Lower Allen Township contributes one officer to the team. The team has a drone, a robot, and a negotiator.

### **CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT (CISM)**

After a traumatic event or accumulation of events, help is available for officers who would benefit from peer support. There are two officers in the Lower Allen Police Department trained in this area. For a critical incident, help would be provided from an uninvolved agency.

### **BIKE PATROL**

This program is used at special events such as school events and public gatherings. It is a good public relations activity and allows officers to get into places that cars could not patrol. It is only used if the event is fully staffed due to limited range and response time.

### **SECURITY AND TRAFFIC CONTROL DETAILS**

Christian Life Assembly is a local church which pays for an officer to be in their building on Sunday mornings. They must pay the officer's overtime salary and benefits. They also use Community Service Officers for traffic control when their services let out and for other special events, as does Christ Community Church. The Capital City Mall pays for an officer to be present in the mall on Friday and Saturday evenings and for special events when crowds are at the mall. The officers work in conjunction with mall security. This prevents having to pull on officer off of the street to handle calls as often.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS**

Community Service Officers (CSO's) can respond to calls that do not require a sworn officer, freeing up more time for officers to respond to other calls or do follow-up investigation. It is a good program for anyone interested in a career in law enforcement or looking to give back to the community. Some of the CSO's have gone on to be police officers. There are currently 78 CSO hours available each week and the

department currently has eight active CSO's. Mr. Schin asked about safety measures for the CSO's. Captain Crone replied that sworn officers will accompany the CSO's if the call is questionable. They are also provided with outerwear vests.

### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

The officers of Lower Allen Township are active in several areas of community outreach. They may help local businesses with active shooter response plans, drug recognition, scam awareness, or women's self-defense.

### **DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE)**

One officer in the department has completed this specialized training in assessing impairment from drugs. This officer can also teach other officers how to perform sobriety testing.

### **MISCELLANEOUS SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Lower Allen officers interact with schools on a regular basis. This includes meeting with administration, walk-throughs, participation in health or civics classes, and through programs like drunk goggles or Lunch with the Law.

### **TRAINING**

The majority of officers in the Lower Allen Police Department are young and have a good deal of training to complete as they move along in their careers. Higher education is also encouraged and partially reimbursed by the Township. There are currently three people in graduate programs. Outside training can be arranged when possible if it fits into the career goal of an officer.

### **IN-HOUSE TRAINING CADRE**

The Police Department recognizes the importance of passing on the skills and expertise of more experienced officers to younger officers who will someday take their places. Succession is encouraged in many areas such as Firearms, Taser, OC Spray, Baton, and Defensive Tactics.

### **COMMITTEE QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

Mr. Kutz asked about the possibility of having a dedicated School Resource Officer at Cedar Cliff High School. Captain Crone stated that he is in favor of this because officers handle a lot of calls there. Mr. Williamson spoke about the past requests not making it before the school board due to the superintendent and funding issues. Mr. Hammon thinks it is worth considering but there also needs to be a SRO at Red Land High School. Director Holl stated that he and Chief Loper of Fairview Township have met with Dr. Stoltz regarding this in the past but it has not gone anywhere. He will reach out to other school districts with SRO's for advice on how they were able to do this in their schools. Mr. Kutz would like this item to be a formal recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Bonneville asked how many officers are able to retire in the next five years and if there is a succession plan for passing on their expertise. Leon replied that a total of five can, including three this year. As much as possible, supervisors train to the next level.

Mr. Pushart questioned that if the presentation is based on keeping up with the current workload, what the ultimate goal would be for the department. Captain Crone stated that eight officers would be needed for

optimal balance of the workload but he must work within the fiscal situation of the Township. The current plan is just to maintain.

Mr. Villone asked how the Township got behind in hiring officers. Mr. Williamson replied that it is hard to anticipate future need for police services based on population and commercial growth. Captain Crone stated that they have been making up for shortfalls with technology. Director Holl added that use of technology has reached the maximum help it can give us for now but we are always watching for new options such as COBRA. The investment must provide a good enough return, however.

Mr. Bonneville asked if there is a minimum staffing requirement included for accreditation. Captain Crone replied that there is not. It is strictly about accountability.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** (Discussions will be limited to 10 minutes per person.)

Mr. Rob Hoobler asked if the Coffee with a Cop program could be held at the other end of the Township sometime. Captain Crone replied that it is being looked into if a suitable venue can be secured. Mr. Hoobler also inquired about the Police Department having its own drone. There is a fairly large time commitment and licensing required for this. Mr. Hoobler asked if other jurisdictions who use our Forensic Technician reimburse Lower Allen Township for the services. Captain Crone stated that they do not but we also use help from other Townships when we have large case and need assistance with processing a crime scene. Mr. Hoobler also stated that he is running for Commissioner in the upcoming election.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Holl adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the EOC at the Lower Allen Township Municipal Building. There will be a presentation and tour by the Fire Department.