

**MIDDLESEX TOWNSHIP
WORKSHOP MEETING
July 29, 2016**

OFFICIALS PRESENT: **SUPERVISOR:** Chairman Donald S. Geistwhite, Jr.
 Vice-Chairman Steve Larson
 William H. Goodhart
 SOLICITOR: Keith O. Brenneman
 DIRECTOR OF
 PUBLIC SAFETY: Barry L. Sherman
 ZONING OFFICER: Mark D. Carpenter
 MANAGER: Eileen M. Gault
 FIRE CHIEF: Edwin Beam

OFFICIALS ABSENT: **ENGINEER:** Bud Grove

Chairman Geistwhite called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. in the Middlesex Township Building.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Scott Newhart along with his brother John was present to discuss an agreement Mr. Scott Newhart has with the Township from 2006. The current agreement limits Mr. Newhart's helicopter roundtrips to 5 a month. He is asking if that can be increased to 10 a month, with the unlikely that he would need all 10. This was a Zoning Hearing Board decision. Chairman Geistwhite informed Mr. Newhart that the Solicitor will review this and advise the Board if there is an easier way to handle the matter.

AMENDMENT TO ROAD CUT ORDINANCE: Mr. Brenneman reported that this was an ordinance the Municipal Authority asked him to draft. The ordinance amends the current township ordinance to require that any applicant that submits a road cut application with the Township files it simultaneously with the Municipal Authority. This is so the Authority can protect its utilities. Mr. Brenneman also increased the penalties provision. On the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Vice-Chairman Larson, it was unanimously agreed to authorize Mr. Brenneman to advertise for possible enactment at a later meeting the amendment to the road cut ordinance.

A ten minute break was taken at this time. The meeting reconvened at 8 a.m.

SNOWSTORM DISCUSSION / PLANNING: Present for this discussion was Representative Stephen Bloom and from the Turnpike Commission Stacey Ritter, Director of Policy, Tim Scalon, Director of Traffic Operations and Dan Breitzman, Manager of Operation Center. This discussion was planned from a previous meeting with Representative Bloom due to the difficult issues that occurred during the last snowstorm and ways to possibly prevent them.

Middlesex Township is divided in half by US 11 and makes it difficult to get to the North and South when there is congestion and intersections that are blocked. The Director of Public Safety and Fire Chief's biggest concern is the gridlock that occurs on the Miracle Mile (US 11) that prevents the passage of any EMS to not only the residence, but the approximate 2000 motel rooms and 800 plus trucks parked at the truck stops. A more advanced warning of major highway shutdowns would be beneficial. The Turnpike is utilizing newer methods of technology

for notifications such as social media. Mr. Sherman suggested that a meeting with the PennDot maintenance shed staff would be helpful so that he could have a direct contact at those facilities. The Turnpike Commission will plan that meeting. After much discussion, it was agreed that communication with all parties is the main component to dealing with these types of situations. The Turnpike Commission Representatives appreciate the Townships continued efforts to work on a plan and will assist with any coordinated efforts that can be done.

Chairman Geistwhite mentioned that when the staff begins to work on the budget, to also review and update a 5 year plan as well to go along with the budget. He would like this ready for the September Workshop Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There being no further business, on the motion of Chairman Geistwhite, seconded by Supervisor Goodhart, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session at 8:55 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter, with no action being taken as a result of the Executive Session.