



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
September 19th, 2022 @ 7:00 pm
VIA Conference Call & Town Hall
141 Main St, Townsend, DE 19734**

7:00 pm Public Safety Committee Meeting

I. Call to Order: 7:01 pm

II. Opening Ceremonies

a. Roll Call -Councilman J.

Mertz, Councilwoman E.

Clarke, Deputy Fire Chief P.

Gilchrist, Chief R. Longo, and Town Manager A. Tantillo

b. Pledge of Allegiance -All present recited the

c. Recognition of Visitors – Three visitors joined via zoom, one of which was a resident of South Street.

d. Announcements -None

III. Adoption of Agenda -Adopted

IV. Discussion regarding Facebook police page

a. Chief Longo stated he is working with TM Tantillo on linking the Townsend Facebook page with the Townsend Police Department Facebook page. Chief Longo stated he is looking to post the following on the Townsend Police Department page:

1. Public safety information from surrounding towns
2. Events and/or notices from the Townsend Fire Department
3. Any items regarding public safety information from the Townsend Police Department
4. Reminders and information for events and holidays

b. TM Tantillo advised she is working on finalizing the page setup and will send the information to the Townsend Police Department by the end of the week.

c. CW Clarke asked who will be overseeing the Townsend Police Department Facebook page. CM Mertz asked if he would be able to have access to this page so

Town Meetings will return to both an in person and a virtual format.

Those wishing to attend virtually may dial **1(301)715-8592**. When directed, provide following meeting ID **827- 6421-7575#** and then the following password **361631#** to enter the meeting. If you choose to access the meeting online click the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82764217575?pwd=aHI4RDhTZ0xiME1HV0ZOcHRxSHZ3QT09>

Residents will be able to view documents posted to the meeting tab on the Town website at www.townsend.delaware.gov or by joining the meeting via computer.



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he may assist with public safety notices. TM Tantillo confirmed Chief Longo will oversee the Facebook page and will add CM Mertz as an additional user.

- d. TM Tantillo noted that the Townsend Facebook page and the Townsend Police Department Facebook page will post reflectively upon one another. TM Tantillo advised for everyone involved on the page to maintain communication on posts and that she will go over the social media Policy with everyone to ensure that the standards will be kept for the Townsend Police Department Facebook page.

V. Discussion regarding Town of Townsend Police Department updates

- a. Chief Longo stated that the equipment requested by the Townsend Police Department has been ordered.
- b. Chief Longo advised he spoke with TM Tantillo regarding the officers need for access to Townhall. Chief Longo explained the officers would need 24/7 access to always ensure the safety of Townhall. Chief Longo clarified that it would be best for the officers to have access via key card and regular keys. He explained if there is a power outage the officers would be able to gain entry with regular keys.
- c. CM Mertz announced he has received updates from the school on upcoming events, such as the Harvest Day Parade that is scheduled to happen on October 28th. CM Mertz advised that this Parade will be shutting down Main Street and last for about an hour. Chief Longo confirmed he has been in contact with the Chief of the Townsend Fire Department to assist in closing the roads. Chief Longo noted that the Townsend Fire Department has been overseeing the Townsend Elementary's Harvest Day Parade for years and is pleased to assist them with Police presence in helping lead the children down the street. CM Mertz advised to send a Code Red to residents to make them aware of the road closure. TM Tantillo confirmed she will be sending the notice out.
- d. CM Mertz asked if Chief Longo knows when the lettering for the Townsend Police Department will arrive. TM Tantillo confirmed that the order has been placed.

VI. Discussion with Town of Townsend Fire Company updates regarding street parking



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- a. CM Mertz introduced Deputy Fire Chief of Town of Townsend Fire Company. CM Mertz stated DFC Gilchrist will be sharing his insight on South Street and other streets around Townsend that may have issues.
- b. DFC Gilchrist stated he drove around the Town in the Town Fire Truck and advised there are a few narrow roads, primarily by the Townsend Village Developments he has safety concerns with. DFC Gilchrist advised that curbs at the end of roads and intersections may be too narrow for large trucks to drive through. DFC Gilchrist stated he has created maps of areas where he believes there should be no parking or set limitations to the type of vehicles that may be permitted to be parked on the roads. DFC Gilchrist advised two roads of concern are South Street and Esch Street.
- c. DFC Gilchrist noted that another issue he is concerned with is residents placing dumpsters or storage units on the road. TM Tantillo advised that this would be a violation per the Town's Code and notices are sent out to residents. DFC Gilchrist clarified that he has not seen this done but has noticed residents are parking on their lawn as to not park on the road. TM Tantillo advised this is also a Code violation. DFC Gilchrist advised that the narrow roads may need to be reconstructed to allow residents to park in the same areas where they are already parking on the grass.
- d. DFC Gilchrist advised parking should not be permitted or limited to certain vehicles on inside curbs so long trucks, such as the Townsend Fire Tanker and Townsend Fire Ladder may be able to pass through without property damage. DFC Gilchrist presented the map and discussed the color-coded areas of concern. DFC Gilchrist explained the pink lines are areas he recommends no parking should be permitted and yellow lines are areas he recommends Code enforcement is needed and no large vehicles should be permitted to park. DFC clarified some of the color-coded



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lined suggestions overlap one another. DFC advised additional areas of immediate concern are on frontage road and Wiggins Mill.

- e. CW Clarke suggested the Town may need to start looking into creating a parking garage to accommodate residents and visitors. TM Tantillo advised that a solution to the concerns will be a long and ongoing project and cannot be fixed overnight. Additionally, she stated that more research will need to be conducted on engineering, ensuring utilities are not blocked, and “right of ways”. TM Tantillo requested for DFC Gilchrist to provide a formal report. DFC Gilchrist confirmed that he will begin working on a formal report.
- f. CM Mertz asked the resident, Ms. Clarke if they had any questions. Ms. Clarke explained she witnessed an incident in which a garbage truck was not able to drive down the street because of a parked car. She stated that the driver had to leave the truck unattended to knock on the resident’s door to have them move their vehicle and expressed that this incident brought up many safety concerns. CM Mertz advised he understands her concerns and that he will be bringing her concerns to the Council’s attention at the next meeting. TM Tantillo advised she has followed up with GFL regarding the incident that Ms. Clarke witnessed and has been informed that the drivers have not reported such issues as of yet. Additionally, TM Tantillo advised that she has requested for GFL to follow up with her if the drivers report any incidents moving forward. TM Tantillo stated the Town is and will continue to look into this parking issue and encourages residents to reach out to their neighbors to solve matters civilly.

VII. Adjourn

- a. CM Mertz advised the Public Safety Committee meetings will fall on the same week as the Special Council Meetings.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.