

**Public Safety Committee Meeting
New Britain Borough
Minutes
October 28, 2015**

The meeting of the New Britain Borough Public Safety Committee was called to order at 7:25 PM by Chairman Robyne Kelemen. In addition to Ms. Kelemen, the following were present: Ms. Jo Schuler, Mr. Mark Benscoter, Mr. David Siegfried, and Lt. Pat Penecale.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Ms. Jo Schuler to approve the minutes of July 22, 2015; seconded by Ms. Robyne Kelemen. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

OPEN ITEMS:

Butler Avenue Traffic Studies – The Committee reviewed all traffic studies conducted on the full length of Butler Avenue within the confines of New Britain Borough. The speed numbers represent that there is no indication of a speed problem along Butler Avenue. The study provided, universally, that speeds traveled on Butler Avenue present no discernable safety issues. All studies related that vehicles are traveling at reasonable speeds throughout. A request was made for a speed study to be conducted on S. Tamenend Avenue between Butler Avenue and the Borough line.

Traffic Stats - Presented for the months of July, August and September of 2015.

Central Bucks Regional Merger with Chalfont Borough PD – Ms. Kelemen voiced concerns over the effects the merger might have on coverage or response times within New Britain Borough. Lt. Penecale explained to the Committee that the coverage would not be adversely affected as the assignment of officers would not change relative to New Britain Borough. However, it was explained that there is the potential for added benefits as Central Bucks Officers would also be accessible from the west side of New Britain in addition to the reinforcements that presently come from the east. Lt. Penecale explained how the assignments would be provided.

Keeley/Butler Avenue Intersection, etc. – Ms. Kelemen related that Mr. Mark Hintenlang, the Borough Road Master, is still working on the light timings at Sand Road and Butler Avenue. At this time, it is his opinion, that the timing is acceptable. Mr. Hintenlang also looked at the signage on Butler Avenue at Keeley Avenue along with Mr. Joe L'Amoreaux. They thought that Penn Dot may approve additional signs around the intersection, but apparently will not. This particular to vehicles making a left from Keeley Avenue onto Butler Avenue. They have concluded to leave the signs as they are and in the event that anything additional is considered; they will seek input from Penn Dot.

Additionally, further discussion was made regarding the intersection. Lt. Penecale related to the Committee that the problem is minimal. The problem with traffic backing up to, and beyond, Keeley is typically only encountered for a short time during the evening rush hour. This combined with the fact that there is no discernable speed problem on Butler Avenue, with little or no occurrence of accidents relative to this intersection; it may be best to resolve that there is no need to manipulate the traffic way at this time.

Matthews/Aarons Avenue – The Borough is still looking for a resolution to provide a permanent solution to the issues surrounding the closing of the street. There is, to date, no viable recommendation to that end.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Kelemen proposed that the Public Safety Committee meet quarterly for the foreseeable future. The meetings will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January, April, July and October of each year. A motion was made to change the meeting schedule as outlined by Ms. Shuler; seconded by Chairman Keleman. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Penecale
Lieutenant, CBRPD