

Leo S. Lutz, Mayor  
Kelly Murphy, Council President

Robert L. Pfannebecker, Solicitor  
Greg Sahd, Borough Manager

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**Safety Committee Minutes  
October 12, 2016**

**Members Present:**

**Chair: John Novak**

**Vice Chair: Kelly Murphy**

**Member: Fran FitzGerald**

**Borough Officials and Staff in Attendance:**

**Mayor: Leo Lutz**

**Borough Manager: Greg Sahd**

**Police Chief: Jack Brommer**

**Manager of Zoning/Planning/Codes: Jeff Helm**

**Borough Council Member: Sherry Welch, Stephanie Weisser**

**Guests in attendance:**

**Randy Fletcher and 4 other citizens**

**Meeting called to order by John Novak, Safety Committee Chair at 6:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**Order of Business:**

Approval of September 14, 2016 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes. Motioned By Kelly Murphy, seconded by Fran FitzGerald, passed unanimously

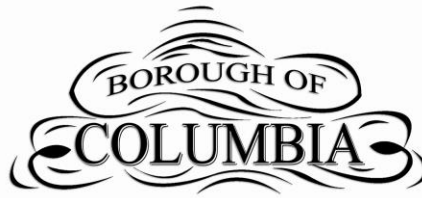
Continued discussion was held on the Emergency Operation Center:

At the request of Jeff Helm, EMC and Borough Manager, Greg Sahd, a discussion was opened to consider the relocation of Emergency Management Center from its current location in the Columbia Borough Fire Department Building, Manor Street to the Columbia Borough Administration Building, Locust Street.

Discussion was held on request. Jeff Helm noted that the reason for request was due to the fact that the location at the CBFDD Building was on the second floor of the building and did not provide handicap accessibility. Also, that the relocation to the Borough Building would make access easier to the center of Government and keep all supplies, equipment, maps etc. at the Borough's facility.

**Motion was initiated by John Novak to move the request to Full Council (November 14, 2016 meeting) for review of the relocation of the Columbia Borough EMOC from its current location at the CBFDD Building – Manor Street, to the Columbia Borough Administration Building – Locust Street.**

Discussions: Possible secondary locations in the event the CB Admin Building was inaccessible? Suggestions for consideration: EM Mobile Trailer, CBSD Admin Building, CB High School Building. To be reviewed by the EMC and EMOC committee and participants.



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**Motion was seconded by Kelly Murphy. Motion passed unanimously.**

Jeff Helm, EMC, updated the Safety Committee members and attendees on the reorganizational efforts of the EMOC operational meeting held at the Cbfd (Manor Street) on September 15, 2016. The purpose of this first “restart” meeting was to gather the primary participants critical to the operation of a functioning EMOC together for the purpose of information sharing and planning consequential meeting to take place to further the communication and effectiveness of Columbia’s EMOC. The present participants at this meeting were: Jeff Helm - EMC, Leo Lutz – Mayor, Jack Brommer – Police Chief, Scott Ryno – Fire Chief, Mike Rhoads – Captain Fire Police, Ron Manley – Fire Police, Jim Ciccocioppi – EMA Director, Tyler Seibert – Columbia QRS, Kelly Murphy – Columbia Borough Council President, John Novak and Fran FitzGerald - Safety Committee Members. Not present: Stephanie Weisser – Safety Committee Member, Mike FitzGibbons, Frank Splain – EMS. Next meeting date to be announced. Safety Committee Chair, John Novak, acknowledged Jeff Helm’s efforts and thanked him for his commitment to restarting the EMOC operation.

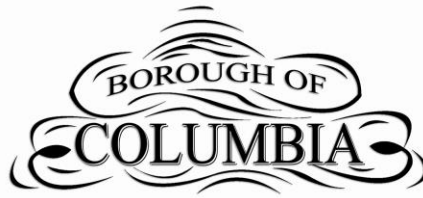
John Novak requested an update from Jeff Helm, Mgr. of Zoning/Planning/Codes, as to any updates on code enforcement or safety issues the public should be aware of. A brief discussion was held on two issues: Bat infestation in a group of Row homes, (which the codes department is addressing) and a feral cat problem at an abandoned property on Fifth Street (codes department addressing with some success – a continued situation). Also, updated on blighted property situation – will be meeting with the LCHA to review 5 blighted properties.

A discussion of a request by CB Police Chief Jack Brommer to increase the 2017 budget for an additional police officer to be utilized as back-fill for the appointment of a second detective the Columbia Police Force. Presentation by CBPT Chief Brommer. The request will be added to the 2017 Budget as a budget request addition for citizen safety.

An overview discussion was held regarding the recent “Columbia Borough Community Conversation” sponsored by the NAACP and Columbia Borough at the CBSD Administration Building on October 11, 2016 after the events of an active shooter situation in Columbia last July. Addendum included from discussion which included approx. 100 participants. Council members in attendance included: Kelly Murphy - CB Council President, Sherry Welch and John Novak – CB Council Members. Borough Officials in attendance: Leo Lutz – CB Mayor and Jack Brommer – CBPD Chief.

An overview was shared by John Novak, regarding CBSD SRO – Troy Engle weekly report (dated 10/3-7/16) activity highlights which included, but not limited to, Taught sexting and cyberbullying class to a seventh-grade class of 24 students. Faculty meeting intervention discussion on possible emergency situations and parent/student interventions regarding school behavioral situations.

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September 2016 Police, Fire and Codes reports were distributed to the Safety Committee members for their review.

**Citizen Comments:**

Randy Fletcher – Concern for Student safety to and from school at cross-walks. Mayor, Leo Lutz, commented that the Borough has erected “safe routes” for students to walk to and from school with stop signs and other precautionary equipment already in place. The Mayor has committed to re-enforcing, with the CBSD, to inform all students as to the “safe routes” students should utilize on their travels to and from school. Mr. Fletcher noted that he consistently see students not be cautious when approaching intersections (many times being distracted on their phones) and not all intersections have stop signs, leaving the possibility greater for an accident. (particularly noted was the long stretch of Union Street without stop signs and 8<sup>th</sup> and Walnut intersection).

Randy Fletcher noted that more police or citizen attention needed to be in place during the hour before and after school hours as he observes student inappropriate actions occurring. IE: Community Watch or Neighborhood Watch program. Mayor also noted that this is a discussion to be held between the upcoming meeting between the School Board and Columbia Borough.

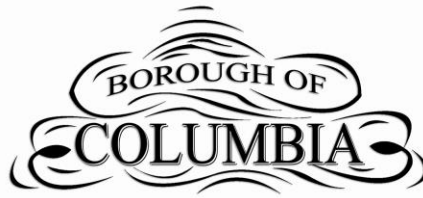
**Closing Remarks:**

Reminder that Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> is ELECTION DAY – get out to vote!

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Kelly Murphy, seconded by Fran FitzGerald and unanimously passed at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Novak  
CB Safety Committee Chair

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