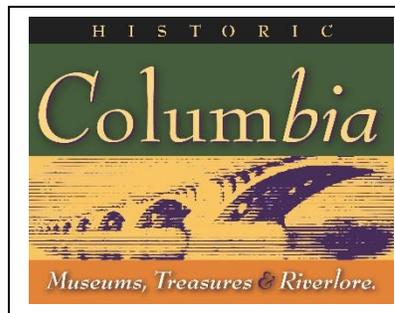


*Leo S. Lutz, Mayor  
Kelly Murphy, Borough Council President*



*Robert L. Pfannebecker, Solicitor  
Rebecca Denlinger, Borough Manager*

## **Public Safety Committee Minutes**

**November 14, 2018, Council Chambers, 308 Locust St., Columbia, PA 17512**

Chair: Todd Burgard • Vice Chair: John Novak • Member: Pam Williams

### Borough Officials and Staff in attendance

Borough Manager Denlinger, CBPD Chief Brommer, Zoning Officer Helm, Mayor Lutz, Councilwoman FitzGerald,  
Council Pres. Murphy

### Citizens/Guest in attendance

CQRS/EMS Exec. Dir. Frank Splain, CBFDF Chief Kemmerly, Candy Blanchflower (SVEMS),  
CBFD President Mark Fritz, Sharron and Joe Lintner, Frank Doutrich, Nancy Baer, Brian Long

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- Call to Order at 6:00 PM
- Pledge to flag
- Motion to accept Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2018, as presented:  
Motioned by: Williams      Second by: Novak      All Favored

## **Facility Use Requests**

None

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Noted to Committee: Monthly Statistical Reports received for October 2018 from Codes, Board of Health/Zoning/Planning/EMA, CBPD, SRO, CBFDF, and SVEMS were included in packets from the full Council Meeting on November 12, 2018. QRS/EMS has not submitted a report.

**Jeff Helm – Board of Health/Zoning and Planning/EMOC Reports** (Advised Committee to refer to Helm's Report distributed to Committee with Draft Agenda)

- Added discussion:
  - Mr. Helm reported that he was appointed to the Holy Trinity Parish Emergency Preparedness Committee and will be tasked with helping to complete an Emergency Management Plan to be completed within the next month following his report.

**Steve Kaufhold – Codes Compliance Reports** (Reported by Jeff Helm)

- 36 condemned properties. 22 blighted properties.
  - Mayor Lutz asked if properties could be on both lists. Mr. Helm responded by saying a property does not need to be condemned to be blighted, but a blighted property is condemned.
  - Councilwoman Williams asked how many properties were added in October to both lists. Mr. Helm responded that he received the current list only, but in looking over the report he was not aware of any blighted properties being added. Mr. Helm made note to ask Mr. Kaufhold to provide Ms. Williams with a report and that they are working with staff to make reports more accessible.

**Chief Brommer – CBPD**

- Chief Brommer reported that Officer Oster is home and recuperating.
- Chief Brommer updated committee on Central Ave., 12<sup>th</sup> St., and Manor St.
  - He and Jake Graham are seeking the committee's support for a temporary traffic circle. Will start with a survey conducted on foot by police officers of the local residents to see how they feel about a traffic circle. If supported by residents, a temporary circle made of traffic barrels will be erected in the spring and would stay in effect for several months. If residents do not support a traffic circle the alternative would be stop signs at the intersections. This option is not favored by the PADOt engineer working with Chief Brommer on this. He warned that stop signs could simply push the problem to another area.
  - Mayor Lutz added that the Borough painted double yellow lines in various places where there were no lines before. These lines seemed to slow traffic down. This slowing down may be that the illusion of the narrowing of the lane is making drivers more cautious. This is an example of the successful use of simple traffic calming techniques.
- Chief Brommer updated committee on Avenue H and Susquehanna Glass (SG) discussion.
  - The CBPD has found management at SG very easy to work with and cooperative.
  - One solution to date is replacing a NO PARKING sign and repainting of curb at 8<sup>th</sup> St./Ave.H intersection on the corner of 23 and 25 North 8th St. This has been completed.
  - Decided against removing various signs around the borough directing visitors to the SG facility per the request of SG management.
  - The CBPD discussed with SG how deliveries can be made differently. Such as: turning trucks around in the SG parking lot; and backing trucks up the alley from 6<sup>th</sup> across 7<sup>th</sup> to the building.
  - Mayor Lutz added that SG and the delivering trucking firms are open to discussion about sharing the expense to repair the damaged sidewalks on 8<sup>th</sup> St. However, until it is determined how the 8<sup>th</sup> street reclamation/resurfacing plan might effect the sidewalks and curbs, no action will be taken because potential permanent repairs may be addressed within these upcoming improvements as part of the project.
  - Councilman Novak questioned the danger to vehicle traffic on 7<sup>th</sup> St. posed by tractor trailers being backed across 7<sup>th</sup> St. to reach SG. Chief Brommer replied that drivers will have assistance from SG employees during the maneuver for safety.

## **Continued Discussions**

- Grinnell Ave. drainage.
  - Mr. Helm advised he surveyed all seven residents whose properties are affected by the solution to the drainage issue. All are in agreement to a proposed plan to bury a 6”–8” drainage pipe along their properties within the beauty strip from 11<sup>th</sup> St. to 10<sup>th</sup> St. that would connect to the downstream storm water catch basin. He reported that four of the seven homes have sump pumps in their basements pumping water out onto the street. Helm said the homes will be asked to connect their sump pumps and downspouts to the new drainage pipe. Solicitor is working on an easement.

## **New Discussions**

- QRS discussion at request of Cbfd Chief Kemmerly.
  - Chief Kemmerly reported that he noticed a lack CQRS/EMS response to calls. Said his research on the County Emergency website showed CQRS/EMS responded to approximately 10% of call in October 2018.
  - Councilman Burgard commented and acknowledged the importance of each of the emergency services entities within the Borough. Their hard work, volunteerism, and dedication to our community is appreciated. He made it clear that synergy between them all is paramount if we are to continue to be successful.
  - Frank Splain, executive director of CQRS/EMS, shared with committee that due to a personal illness spanning the months of February 2018 through September 2018, as well as personnel and leadership issues among the CQRS/EMS volunteers, the ability to respond to calls was negatively affected. Mr. Splain shared how he wants to better communicate and partner with Cbfd to solve problems and work together.
  - Mr. Splain asked committee to give him until January 2019 to present a plan to restructure CQRS/EMS. He also committed to submitting all past-due reports for December’s Council meeting.
  - Mr. Splain suggested asking the Borough for payment of utility and fuel bills in lieu of financial support in 2019.
  - Councilman Novak reminded all parties about the history of the EMS and FD committing to work towards a cohesive relationship. He offered that in council’s opinion, CQRS/EMS seemed to disappear due to the lack of reports and communication and suggested that if CQRS/EMS were more transparent about their problems and would have delegated the reports submissions, this may have perhaps helped all agencies involved with understanding and working toward helping them through their challenges. In his opinion, Cbfd was justified in bringing the problem to Council’s attention. He expressed appreciated for Mr. Splain’s explanation and looks forward the 2019 plan.
  - Mayor Lutz questioned if we were talking about QRS or ambulance service. Chair Burgard stated the conversation was in regard to QRS and not ambulance. Mr. Splain noted that CQRS/EMS’s ambulance is 7<sup>th</sup> to be dispatched within the borough after SVEMS and other agencies. He said volunteers are assigned to QRS calls/vehicles before ambulance calls.
- Malfunctioning signal light at Third and Locust Sts.
  - Jeff Helm reported that the light has been repaired.

## **COMMENT PERIOD**

### **Mayor Lutz:**

- He noticed that the signal lights on Front St. and Walnut St. at Columbia Crossing are working correctly, have been angled so you can see them much better, and there is now a left hand turn arrow that’s been added to the signal as well.

**Citizen Comments:**

- CBFDD president Mark Fritz reported that they are ordering the Truck-Mount VMS message sign for the new traffic unit.
- Councilman Novak asked Chief Kemmerly about the State releasing money to volunteer fire companies and how it affects CBFDD. Kemmerly responded that they receive money every year from the State, but the amounts get smaller every year.
- Citizen Frank Doutrick asked about the Grinell Ave. plan and wanting to see the plan and why is the Borough tying in downspouts into the new drainage system? Mr. Helm answered that the cumulative roof water run off is adding to the problem so it makes sense to offer the residents the option to connect rainspout drainage as well. He asked if pumps are involved outside of the homes and who would install the pipes from the home to the new drain. Chair Burgard answered no pumps are needed other than homeowners' basement sump pumps and the cost to connect from the home to the new drain is a homeowner expense.

**Committee Remarks:**

None

**Closing Remarks:**

- The Public Safety Committee thanks you for attending this meeting, and have a good month.
- The next PSC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2018 following the Legislation Committee meeting which starts at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted and advertised.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Motioned: Williams

Seconded: Novak

All Favored

Adjourned 7:26 PM