

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
14 APRIL 2020**

PRESENT:

DAVID W MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
KURT CUMMINGS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-TREASURER
CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-SECRETARY
BRENDON CARROLL	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
DAVID CARBONE	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
MIKE PENN	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-MEMBER
JUAN ADAMS	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
LYNN KELLY	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
TONY LAMANTIA	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE
HARRY COLEMAN		-SOLICITOR

ABSENT:

JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
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CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Business Meeting of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission was held via Zoom Video Conferencing and called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Moyer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adopt the minutes of 10 March 2020 as presented, seconded by Brendon Carroll. With no comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 14 April 2020 in the amount of \$243,788.18, seconded by Dave Carbone.

Mike Oser referencing check #17251 - ICOR Technology – asking if the funds have been reimbursed? It was replied that the reimbursement check would be issued for approval at the next Foundation meeting.

With no additional comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Wagner stated that he's been asked often if the COVID-19 quarantine and social distancing guidelines have affected crime or police coverage. He indicated that roads seem less congested, but it has not really affected the numbers yet indicating that may be due to the quarantine and closures starting in the middle of the month with school closures on March 16th and small businesses on March 19th.

The Chief then went over the monthly and year to date activity numbers per municipality as well as the UCR Crime Stats.

Total calls for the month of March were 991 consisting of 927 Complaints and 64 Accidents. There were a total of 85 Criminal Arrests, 117 Traffic Arrests, 141 Traffic Warnings and 9 Ordinance Arrests.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the March Police Report, seconded by Brendon Carroll.

Mike Oser noted patrol time going up in the municipalities and asked why that would happen when there are not supposed to be people on the roads. Chief explained patrol time is unallocated time – if an officer is not doing paperwork, speed timing, investigating an accident, not on a 911 call etc. it is logged as patrol time, stating that the increase in patrol time is reflecting a decrease in 911 volume.

With no additional comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

VEHICLE REPORT:

○ **March Vehicle Report**

Chief reviewed the mileage and expense report for March, indicating that Cars 6 and 21 are out of service after being involved in an accident. The officers were responding to an incident involving a motor vehicle theft and ended as a DUI crash. State Police are investigating the accidents and the suspect has been arrested. Chief also indicated that 3 of the 4 new vehicles were delivered to the dealer just before the businesses shut down. At this time they are in a holding pattern.

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to accept the March Vehicle Report, seconded by Kurt Cummings. With no comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Lessee Resolution 2020-001 – New Vehicle Lease

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to adopt Lessee Resolution 2020-001, seconded by Francis DePiano.

Lynn Kelly requested the Lease amount, Chief stated \$109,380.22.

With no additional comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

▪ **Accreditation**

Chief informed the Commission that due to Covid-19 the Mock Assessment was conducted virtually last week. The actual assessment is scheduled for June 4.

▪ **Covid-19**

○ **Operational Status**

Chief updated the Commission on the COVID-19 timeline and the Department's response plan.

- *The W.H.O declared the Pandemic on March 11th*
- *The Governor ordered schools shut down on March 16th*
- *The shutdown of non-essential businesses was ordered March 19th*

PMRPD's Response Plan was initially instituted on March 16 with slight modifications on March 19th and minor modifications on the days following. It is significant to keep contagion out of the police department. If the officers and emergency responders start getting ill it would leave a lot of the community unprotected:

- *Officers responding to emergency calls*
- *Non-emergent calls to be risk assessed and handled by phone when possible*
- *Front Lobby closed for general business and non-emergent business transactions that can be handled by phone*
- *Non-essential Business complaints will be handled with a compliance rather than an enforcement approach*
- *Building has been thoroughly cleaned twice*
- *Through equipment sharing between Tobyhanna Township and Coolbaugh Township Fire Departments the building has been fumigated*

Department overall health:

3 officers have been quarantined of which 2 were tested and results negative.

○ **Equipment**

PPE on hand:

- *N95 Masks (from County EMA)*
- *Eye protection purchased*
- *Hand Sanitizer purchased / donated*
- *Cleaning Chemicals purchased*
- *Latex Gloves purchased*
- *Handmade Cloth masks (donated by members of the public)*
- *Respirators / Tyvek Suits / Booties / Gloves (donated by Pocono Volunteer Fire Company)*

Fran DePiano asked if this has affected our Cadets in the Academy. Chief indicated the Academy is still operational. He was also informed that the July class is also still on schedule and we have 1 Cadet that will be attending that class. Kurt Cummings raised concerns about people throwing latex gloves in parking lots. Discussion continued.

● **Policy Revision**

○ **6-3 Firearms Qualification**

Chief Wagner stated that this policy change is due to replacing the department issued firearm. The policy must specifically list the make and model firearm and the caliber and type of ammunition.

Motion:

Dave Carbone made a motion to accept the 6-3 Firearms Qualification Policy Revision, seconded by Brendon Carroll.

In summary Lynn Kelly questioned if all the weapons being removed from the Armory were being traded to the vendor? Chief Wagner stated all the weapons indicated with the red slashes through in the Policy Revision will be removed from the Armory are replaced. Chief also stated that the officers will have the option to purchase their old weapons and all transactions will be made through the vendor.

With no additional comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Annual Report**

Chief Wagner presented and reviewed the 2019 Annual Report.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve the 2019 Annual Report as presented, seconded by Brendon Carroll.

Chief replied to some general clarification questions from Commission member Lynn Kelly and public member Mike Oser.

With no additional comments or questions a roll call vote was taken with all Members present voting in favor. The motion passed unanimously. *Note Kurt Cummings lost connectivity to the meeting.*

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Thanked the officers for everything and stay safe.

Tunkhannock Township – Thanked the officers for everything and stay safe.

Coolbaugh – Complimented the department and stay safe. Emailed concerns to chief. Asked about the Drug Take Back in April – Chief indicated that has been cancelled.

Mount Pocono – Thank the department for all efforts. Also raised concerns about essential businesses specifically a bus service, will email chief information.

Barrett Township –

- **2020 / 2021 Hiring Process**

Conditional Offer made to Zach Sheetz from the 2019/2020 Hiring List as a replacement for a retirement from 2019 and will be attending Police Academy in July. Conditional Offer also made to Corey Kime also from the 2019/2020 Hiring List as a replacement for Det. Sgt. Lenning.

2020/2021 Hiring process written test conducted March 14 with 101 applicants took the test and 53 passed and will move on to the Physical Fitness Test. The rest of the process is on hold until restrictions relating to COVID-19 are lifted.

- **Building Capital Projects**

Architects have been out to the building and currently working on the construction plan.

- **Pension**

Nothing new

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

Thank you and well wishes letter from Monroe County United

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

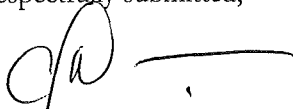
Tracy Fox mentioned about Ford vehicle recall notice. Also thanked and praised the department.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned approximately 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CW', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Claudette Williams
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Secretary