

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
12 MAY 2020**

PRESENT:

DAVID W MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
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:

KURT CUMMINGS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-TREASURER
CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-SECRETARY
JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER

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 7:06 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 14 April 2020, seconded by Brendon Carroll.

Lynn Kelly made a comment to correct "Officer" to "Offer," under the 2020/2021 hiring process.

Chief Wagner clarified the amount of the total Vehicle Lease amount from last month's meeting. Lynn Kelly asked for the total amount of the vehicle lease. The total lease amount is \$218, 760.44. The amount stated by the Chief last month was for the initial payment of \$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.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 12 May 2020 in the amount of \$280,125.62, seconded by Juan Adams. With no comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Total calls for the month of April were 814 consisting of 782 Complaints and 32 Accidents. There were a total of 60 Criminal Arrests, 23 Traffic Arrests, 4 Traffic Warnings and 8 Ordinance Arrests.

Chief Wagner stated that with a full month now of the COVID 19 lockdown total calls for April were down approximately 29% from March. He stated that comparing the stats to March that had half the month of the lockdown. Complaints were down 27%, Accidents were down 59%, Criminal Arrests down 39%, Traffic Arrests down 88%, Traffic Warnings also went down significantly indicating it is due to the limiting of non-emergent contacts and limiting pro-activity to maintain social distancing to keep everyone healthy. He then went over the monthly and year to date activity numbers per municipality as well as the UCR Crime Stats. Part 1 and Part II UCR's dropped about 23%.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the April Police Report, seconded by Juan Adams.

Mike Oser asked what type of arrests were in Mt Pocono. Chief indicated that he does not have the actual arrest numbers available at this time but stated the crimes reported in Mt Pocono were 13 thefts, 2 forgery, 2 fraud, 1 vandalism, 1 drug violation, 1 disorderly conduct and 4 others. Oser additionally asked if the amount of offences were down due to the less patrol time and less person to person contact? Chief explained patrol time is up the pro-activity time is reduced.

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

VEHICLE REPORT:

Chief reviewed the mileage and expense report for April. Chief stated that 3 of the 4 vehicles were delivered to the dealer and 2 of them are currently at the upfitter. Cars 2, 4 and 16 will be replaced and requested a motion to advertise the 3 vehicles for sale when the new ones are delivered.

Motion:

David Carbone made a motion to advertise the sale of vehicles #2, #4 and #16, 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.

Motion:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Accreditation**

The mock assessment has taken place and the actual accreditation is scheduled for June 4, 2020 we are utilizing power DMS- which allows the accessors to remote in and file share with them electronically.

- **Covid-19**

- **Operational Status** – Same Emergency Response Plan as last month. We remain Covid free. We are practicing limited proactive patrol, handle non-emergent calls by telephone. When a call does come in that requires our officers to respond they remain outside if possible, social distance and wear proper PPE, including masks, gloves and eye protection. 8 members have been tested as precautionary measure due to being sick or possible exposure, all came back negative.
- **Equipment** – we have been supplied ample masks by the county. We have all cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer needed. The building was fumigated two times.

- April 29, the Governor signed ACT 17- any police officer that comes down with Covid-19 is to be paid full salary and heart and lung.

- **Policy Revision**

7-2 Mobile Video and Audio Recording System – from the Mock Accreditation the assessors suggested we include more guidance in the policy regarding the Facial Recognition Software or Programs which resulted in adding subsections 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Motion:

David Carbone made a motion to amend the policy revision 7-2 Mobile Video and Audio Recording System, seconded by Brendon Carroll.

Mike Oser asked since it is an investigative tool only, does it mean that it cannot be used in prosecution. Chief Wagner stated he does not believe Face Recognition has been excluded as a polygraph has.

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

- **1st Quarter 2020 Budget Review**

Chief went over the 1st Quarter Budget Review. Overall budget was at 19.6 %.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the 1st Quarter 2020 Budget Review, seconded by Juan Adams. With no comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- **1st Quarter Treasurers Report**

General Fund-\$3,711,539.64, Prescription Fund-\$27,160.34, Capital Projects Fund-\$15,166.76, Asset Forfeiture Fund-\$390,010.51, Capital Reserve Fund-\$322,763.36, Police Pension Fund-\$21,591,774.88, Non-Uniform Pension Fund-\$196,840.58

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the 1st Quarter Treasurers Report, seconded by Dave Carbone. With no comments or questions a roll call vote was taken, all Members present voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Insurance Renewal**

Chief stated the insurance renewal rates were received for Property / Inland Marine / General Liability / Police Professional / Public Officials / Auto and Workers Comp. There is an increase of approximately 8%, \$16,195.00. with the largest increase coming from the Workers Comp due to claims which increase the MOD Experience Factor and the increase in total payroll. Brendan Carroll asked if it was possible to increase deductibles to help it balance out. Chief explained that some deductibles are as high as \$25,000.00.

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township –

Tunkhannock Township – Francis DePiano complimented Det. John Bohrman and Det. Sgt. Lucas Bray on the outstanding program televised on the cult homicide. Juan Adams commended the Chief on the department’s handling of the Covid-19 situation.

Coolbaugh – Tony Lamantia thanked the Chief for addressing an issue he emailed to the Chief.

Mount Pocono – Thanked the department as well as the staff for going above and beyond during these difficult times. Mr. Penn asked what is the Department policy on open burning that violates an ordinance regarding terms of enforceability? Chief Wagner stated if there is an ordinance we will enforce it. We will usually advise and educate first, then if the warning is disregarded then a citation would be filed.

Barrett Township –

- **2020/2021 Hiring Process**

Due to the Covid-19 situation the 2020/2021 is in a holding pattern. We did get the Written Test conducted before the shutdown of the schools, but the PT test was cancelled. There is 1 Candidate that will be attending the academy beginning in July, but any future hiring will be put on hold until we know what impact this will have on our department and municipal budgets.

- **Building Capitol Projects**

Nothing new to report architect is shut down

- **Pension**

Next meeting is May 19, 2020. Chief stated he received a summary and read from the report:

“Capital markets have bounced back strongly since the lows of March 23rd in reaction to the fiscal monetary stimulus measure and partial re-opening of the US economy. PFM committee believes that the recovery will be gradual and protracted, rather than sharp which leads us to deduce that the equity markets are not fully discounting the depth of the recession and protracted recovery. As a result the committee prefers to stay defensive in light of the continued uncertainty in order to be able to provide downside protection if the equity markets were to see another sell off.”

PFM will maintain a defensive stance and be underweight in equities and overweight in fixed income.

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

No community events. Chief stated he has received some e-mails wishing us well. He also reminded that this is Police Week – Police Memorial Day is Wednesday. Keep all men and women in blue in our prayers, especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mike Oser asked Paul Pugelli what caused the increase in insurances from 2019 - 2020 and questioned the limits of liability. Mr. Pugelli explained premiums are based on total payroll, Experience Factor and the rate charged. He also discussed possible umbrella policy options. Discussion continued concerning adding an additional umbrella policy.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve an Umbrella Policy Package as long as it stays within the current budget, 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.

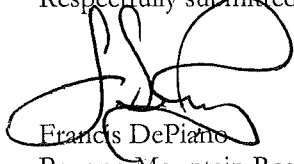
There was discussion concerning if a motion is needed to approve the insurance renewal proposal. Determination that since it is already included in the approved budget one is not needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned approximately 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Francis DePiano
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Vice-Chairman