

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
09 JUNE 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
JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE
HARRY COLEMAN		-SOLICITOR

ABSENT:

TONY LAMANTIA	-COOLBAUGH 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 7:06 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 12 May 2020, 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 09 June 2020 in the amount of \$134,706.68, 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.

POLICE REPORT:

Total calls for the month of May were 1103 consisting of 1036 Complaints and 67 Accidents. There were a total of 83 Criminal Arrests, 47 Traffic Arrests, 23 Traffic Warnings and 6 Ordinance Arrests.

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

Motion:

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

Mike Oser- questioned increase in assaults and disorderly conduct. Chief Wagner explained (in referring to Covid-19) a crime with domestic violence will get reported as an assault. Disorderly conduct is a catch all using a summary offence to show a little discretion with other crimes. (small amount of marijuana or under age drinking). Due to more activity in the public.

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 May. Chief stated 3 of the 4 new vehicles are currently at the upfitter. One vehicle is still at manufacturer.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the May Vehicle Report, seconded by Brendan Carroll.

Brendan Carroll asked with the recent shutdown of Ford and vehicle damages; should an order for new vehicles be discussed. Chief stated he would be cautious waiting until next year's budget to decide on the number of new vehicles to be ordered; leaving the decision to the commission's confidence in upcoming budget. Chairman Moyer suggested to continue to discuss this at future meetings.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- **New Policy**

6-11 Officer Involved Shooting – Outlines the rolls and responsibilities and procedures in an officer involved shooting. (Commission members were asked to come in and review this confidential policy prior to the meeting.)

6-12 Canine Encounters – Outlines specific law enforcement guidance when dealing with a canine encounter.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept 6-11 Officer Involved Shootings and 6-12 Canine Encounters, seconded by Kurt Cummings.

Mike Penn asked why the confidential nature of these policies. Chief stated concerns of officer safety. Chief stated in any policy there may be portions that could be released, however other portions may not. Claudette Williams stated her concerns on more visibility on the policies as well.

Lynn Kelly stated with public unrest, she would like the commission to set up a committee to work with the departments administration and review our current policies against the 8 can't wait. (list of recommended policies) Chief Wagner stated with most Accredited Agencies, suggestions that are offered usually are already in place. Referring the choke hold restrictions- Chief stated it was already in place. Regarding de-escalation – this has been discussed by this department for the better part of 10 years. Ms. Kelly asked if the Chief can review the list of 8 can't wait and advise if these items are already addressed in current policies. Open discussion took place regarding the current climate of policing recently seen in the media. Harry Coleman stated the policies and procedures for PMRPD are Gold standard especially with the periodic review and

guidance of being an Accredited Agency. Chief Wagner stated he could not recall a citizen complaint of use of force in the last 5 years. Chairman Moyer suggested Ms. Kelly to send the (8 can't wait), list of recommended polices to the Chief for his review.

Mike Oser - referencing to 6-12 Canine Encounters-would it be beneficial to "advertise" information regarding when police will use force on a Canine. Chief stated our rules of engagement are exact to the current dog law.

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

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Officers doing outstanding job.

Tunkhannock Township – Thanks

Mount Pocono – Thanks. Mr. Penn made mention of a Peaceful protest that took place in Mt Pocono today.

Coolbaugh – Thanks – Mr. Cummings reflected on his experience with PMRPD as always respectful. He stated he will always defend the department and its officers. Chief Wagner appreciated Mr. Cummings comments adding he would expect nothing less from his officers. Every person is to be treated with dignity and humility. Professionalism is expected and nothing else would be tolerated. Chief continued to credit the officers for their great community relations and doing their job at the great level that is expected of them.

Lynn Kelly appreciated Mr. Cummings comments. She continued to ask Chief Wagner if the department was able to obtain the umbrella policy discussed at previous meeting. Chief Wagner stated we received the quote and he will be signing it this month.

Barrett Township – Thanks to Officer Jones along with the rest of the officers.

- **Accreditation**

This year's Accreditation has been conducted on line through Power DMS. Chief stated that during the first Accreditation cycle we changed approximately 12 policies. As we have moved through our re-accreditation process through the years, there has been less need for changes. This year only one change was needed in the MVAR (Mobile Video Audio Recording System) policy. Chief stated this is a testament to a sound program regarding our policies and procedures. The next step of this year's Accreditation - is the on-site walk thru on June 16, 2020.

- **Covid -19**

- **Operational Status** – Chief stated we have moved into yellow on May 26th. Operational changes have been made to our response plan. The front lobby is now open for business, (masks required), we are responding to all 911 calls, and we have now opened some traffic proactivity.
- **Equipment** – all needed equipment regarding Covid-19 is readily available.

(Claudette Williams left meeting)

- **2020 / 2021 Hiring Process**

Hiring Process is frozen at this time. Chief stated he wants to see what the financial ramifications are from the Covid-19 shutdown. The Chief expects to get the list in place and make hiring decisions in the future. When the county moves to green, the PT test will be scheduled.

Mike Penn commented on the recruiting of minorities, given the current climate. He stated he believed we do not have any minority employees. Chief Wagner answered by explaining we currently do have 3 minorities on our staff. He continued to state he views Officers as Officers. We recruit and like to see diversity on our force, everyone is encouraged to apply. Open discussion continued.

- **Building Capital Projects**

Meeting is scheduled for June 25th, with Schoonover & Vanderhoof Architects to go over final specifications and plans for security updates for building.

- **Pension**

The Pension meeting was held on May 19th. Chief reported that the bench mark was set at -12.32% and we lost 11.98%. The fund started at \$24,883,676. The net flows out \$178,038.00 with a loss of \$2,989,527.00 which ended the fund with \$21,716,114. Chief Wagner reported as of May 8th, the pension climbed back to \$22,800,000.00. gaining 1.1 million since the end of the quarter into the beginning of May.

Mike Penn asked about the sudden increase in MMO contributions during the recession of 2008. Chief stated he didn't think were too far off the minimum contribution as of current. Chairman Moyer stated if the market continues as in the recent weeks we should be in good shape.

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

No community events. Chief stated we have received a lot of support from the community in the form of Pizza Pies and thanks to our officers. The Monroe County Bar Association – along with Barley Creek and Perkins provided a \$10.00 meal coupon towards a meal purchase.

Jeanine Hofbauer – PMRPF has been making motivational messages for the community from our officers. Messages of encouragement to continue their home studies, and messages on how to become a police officer. These messages can be found of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Foundation Facebook page.

Chairman Moyer mentioned that the next commission meeting will be at Headquarters. However, if anyone is not comfortable with coming into the building, accommodations can be made.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

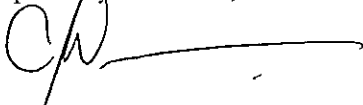
N/A

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brendan Carroll. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned approximately 8:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Claudette Williams
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Secretary