

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

PRESENT:

DAVID W MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
KURT CUMMINGS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-TREASURER
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
JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE
HARRY COLEMAN		-SOLICITOR

ABSENT:

CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-SECRETARY (arrived 8:10)
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CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Business Meeting of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission was held at the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Building and called to order at 6.59 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 09 June 2020, seconded by Juan Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 14 July 2020 in the amount of \$287,232.79, seconded by Juan Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Total calls for the month of June were 1374 consisting of 1292 Complaints and 82 Accidents. There were a total of 48 Criminal Arrests, 55 Traffic Arrests, 107 Traffic Warnings and 12 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 June Police Report, seconded by Kurt Cummings.

Kurt Cummings asked if the officers were proactive with their call response with the threat of Covid-19. Chief Wagner stated we were operating with caution when possible. Masking up when necessary.

With no further comments or questions, the motion passed unanimously.

VEHICLE REPORT:

Chief reviewed the mileage and expense report for June. Chief reported the three new vehicles are in and on the road. The 4th vehicle is still at manufacturer.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the June Vehicle Report, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2019 Financial Audit** –

Carl Hogan from BBD presented a synopsis of the 2019 Audit. Lynn Kelly asked questions regarding specific pages of the audit and Mr. Hogan responded accordingly.

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Brendan Carroll – mentioned concerns over Mt. Pocono’s participation in the 2020 budget – with Mt Pocono’s contribution being based on their 2019 budget numbers and not the 2020. He stated it would require the remaining municipalities to pick up the difference. Mr. Carroll asked for it to be discussed publicly. (discussion to be had under Mt Pocono Concerns). Dave Carbone also commented for the officers to stay safe and they were doing a great job.

Tunkhannock Township – Francis DePiano is pleased with the work from the department, however he also has concerns over the resolution that was received from Mt. Pocono.

Mount Pocono – Mike Penn stated Mt. Pocono passed a resolution authorizing its payment to the Police Commission based on the 2019 rates. Mr. Penn stated as a commission member he voted to approve the proposed 2020 budget and send it to the municipalities for approval because it was a compromised agreement. He continued to state that the other municipalities do not necessarily have to make up the difference owed by Mt Pocono, there are other options. Mr. Penn continued speaking about the Municipal Agreement and the guidelines set forth in that agreement as it pertains to the budget process. Chairman Moyer stated that Mr. Penn should bring the issue back to Mt. Pocono and they can decide how to take care of the shortage.

Francis DePiano asked what figure was put to the Borough Council 2020 Budget. Mr. Penn stated it was the figure put in the resolution. Mr. DePiano asked knowing the figure was not what the commission agreed on, why was it not brought to the commission’s attention earlier when Mount Pocono knew in December the figure was not the one that the Commission agreed to. After more discussion, it was decided to put the subject on the agenda for next month.

Chief passed out copies of the Municipal Agreement for review and further discussion on this matter will take place next month.

Mike Penn also brought up the enforceability of the Mt Pocono Fireworks ordinance and the number of firework calls that had no response. Chief requested Mr. Penn forward the list of complaints he was referring to and he will check into them specifically to see if there was any breakdown in protocol. Chief then explained that it was a very busy weekend, after looking over the calls for that weekend there were 41 pages of incident reports, 244 calls. There were about 17 officers per day, about 5 officers per shift and extra officers on for that weekend. He continued explaining the types of calls the officers were handling. There were also 3 van loads of commercial grade fireworks that were confiscated by this department.

(Claudette Williams arrived at meeting)

Coolbaugh –

Barrett Township –

- **Accreditation**

Walk thru and exit interview took place on June 16th, 2020 and we have been recommended for re-accreditation making us the only accredited municipal law enforcement agency in Monroe County.

- **2020 / 2021 Hiring Process**

At this time the hiring process is still frozen.

- **Building Capital Projects**

Meeting with Schoonover & Vanderhoof Architects, LLC regarding plans for security upgrades took place June 25, 2020. We will be advertising this week for bids. Contractors that will be bidding will do a pre-job site visit on July 28th. - Bids will be due August 10, and opened on August 11th, at the Commission Meeting, hoping for construction to start September 4th.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to advertise for bids for the construction of the security upgrades, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Pension**

Next meeting 8/18/20

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

No community events due to Covid-19. We have received a lot of community support.

Kurt Cummings thanked the Chief for doing a community event with him at Pocono Community Church.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Valeria Sowell, Stillwater Lakes, Coolbaugh Township resident – complaints and concerns on the procedure for response to alarm calls. Chief replied to her concerns.

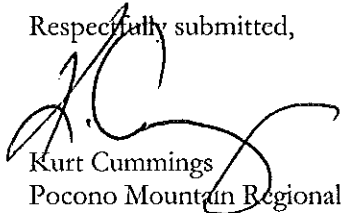
Mike Oser – comments on responding to firework complaints on July 4th and not having extra officers on duty for the weekend. Chief corrected Mr. Oser that there were extra officers on overlapping shifts that day.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned approximately 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kurt Cummings
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Treasurer

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was an Executive Session prior to this meeting from 6:10 pm to 6:29 pm to discuss litigation and budget information.