

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
21 February 2024**

PRESENT:

DAVID MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-SECRETARY
CRAYSON CHEUNG	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
UNFILLED	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
UNFILLED	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
RANDY ALTEMOSE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER
DON STRUCKLE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE
OWEN COLEMAN		-HARRY COLEMAN LAW

ABSENT:

WILLIAM WEIMER	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-TREASURER
KURT CUMMINGS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
TRACY FOX	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER

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 7:02 p.m. by Chairman David Moyer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the 9 January 2024 minutes as presented. Crayson Cheung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motions:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-Pack of 09 January 2024 in the amount of \$351,539.11, motion seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Wagner advised the total calls for the month of January were 1006, consisting of 914 Complaints and 92 Accidents. There was a total of 61 Criminal Arrests, 151 Traffic Arrests, 143 Traffic Warnings and 7 Ordinance Arrests.

Chief Wagner reviewed the stats for each municipality along with the UCR's.

Chief Wagner provided members Don Struckle and Randy Altemose the Mount Pocono Borough breakdown of residential and commercial thefts.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the January Police Report as presented, motion seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

VEHICLE REPORT

Chief Wagner discussed the high mileage vehicles for the month. He further went on to discuss the costs of two of the vehicles. Car 5 expenses totaling \$742.00 after a minor collision with a deer; and Car 20 at \$445.72 needing basic repairs.

Chief Wagner confirmed receipt of three new Ford vehicles. The unmarked 2023 Ford from the LSA Grant is currently being upfitted. Two Dodge Durango's were also delivered from New Holland. The Chief advised that he would like an official motion to accept the invoice from New Holland along with upfitting the two Durango's. Total price for both Durango's is \$89,990.00 with the upfit totaling \$31,789.00. The Chief also advised Car 9 was listed on Municibid.

The Chief discussed which cars he would like to replace and further explained that we are still working on a settlement from the insurance company regarding Car 44 and Car 46 sold on Municibid for \$5,200.00. The Chief additionally advised he would like to repeat the 2023 motion regarding vehicles sold; and requested that monies received for vehicles sold can be used as a funding source for new vehicles.

Motion

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the January Vehicle Report, motion seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the invoice from New Holland along with the upfitting of the Durango's, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

Fran DePiano made a motion to declare any monies received from the sale of vehicles can be used as a funding source for new vehicles, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Commendations:**

Chief Wagner introduced the evenings' Commendation Award recipients: Detective Corporal Robert Miller, Detective Donald Scarfo, Officer Carmine Saprana, Officer Dan Murgia and Officer Zach Scheetz. He detailed the critical incident which occurred on January 18, 2021. Each officer who participated was recognized for the bravery and teamwork in extraordinary circumstances that brought the perpetrators to justice. All officers were congratulated by the police commission members and the public.

- **Promotions**

Chief Wagner promoted Detective Corporal Robert Miller to the rank of Patrol Sergeant and Detective Kyle VanNote to the rank of Detective Corporal.

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the promotions. Crayson Cheung seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Lateral Transfers:**

Officers Joseph Apgar and Zachary Scheetz were transferred to Detective rank.

Chief Wagner advised with the lateral transfer from Patrolman to Detective, there is a pay increase and asked for a motion to approve the increase.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the lateral transfers and the corresponding increase in salary, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

- **4th Quarter Treasurer's Report**

General Fund-\$4,983,090.17, Prescription Fund-\$23,883.35, Capital Projects Fund-\$15,329.48, Asset Forfeiture Fund-\$357,143.85, Capital Reserve Fund-\$516,545.18, Police Pension Fund-\$28,458,308.41, Non-Uniform Pension Fund-\$118,929.48

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the 4th Quarter Treasurer's Report, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Preliminary 4th Quarter Budget vs Actual Report**

Chief Wagner reviewed the 4th Quarter Budget vs Actual Report which indicated the department came in under budget for the fiscal year 2023, pending any Financial Audit adjustments..

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the preliminary 4th Quarter Budget vs Actual Report, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Tobyhanna Township Inter-Municipal Agreement Amendment:**

Chief Wagner advised that Tobyhanna Township requested approval for a change in the Intermunicipal Agreement as it relates to whom the Township will appoint to represent on the PMRPD Commission. Discussion followed and Chief Wagner noted that there is still some negotiation needed regarding the request. Chief Wagner suggested that the topic be tabled until the Executive session to be held in April 2024. Commission members unanimously agreed to table the matter.

- **Reformed Inter-Municipal Agreement:**

Chief Wagner suggested the Commission table this topic until further notice. Commission members agreed unanimously.

- **Drop Pension Application:**

Chief Wagner advised the Commission that Detective Ryan Venneman submitted his intent to enter the DROP effective July 1, 2024. Chief Wagner requested a motion to accept same.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve Detective Ryan Venneman's entering the DROP effective July 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Crayson Cheung and passed unanimously.

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Chairman Moyer thanked Chief Wagner and the department for everyone's contribution.

Tunkhannock Township – Vice-Chair Fran DePiano thanked Chief Wagner for all he's done and advised that his township is very pleased.

Coolbaugh Township – Secretary William Weimer was absent.

Mount Pocono Borough – Member Don Struckle enjoyed the promotional ceremony and commendations. Member Randy Altemose mentioned the *No Parking Zone* issues in the Borough and requested special attention to same. Chief Wagner advised that upon completion of the field training of the new hires, there will be additional traffic enforcement.

Barrett Township – Secretary John Seese thanked Chief Wagner for sending officers to the township meetings. He further expressed that the promotions and commendations were well deserved.

- **LSA Grant**

Chief Wagner advised the vehicle received through the LSA Grant is being upfitted and expected back Friday, February 23, 2024.

- **American Recovery Act Grant**

Chief Wagner advised that all equipment has been delivered except for the SWAT communication headsets. LPR's are operational and training has been completed.

- **2024 Hiring Process**

Chief Wagner advised there were 89 applications received for the 2024 hiring process. Sixty of the applicants presented for the written exam with 26 passing and now eligible to the physical testing portion to be completed in March.

- **Pension**

Chief Wagner advised there was a pension meeting the day prior to the police meeting but with the full agenda, the pension will be presented at the March meeting.

- **Community Events and Letters of Support**

1/8/2024 – Officer Martin Ksepka addressed the Cub Scout pack in Barret Township.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked Chief Wagner how many officer positions are open. Chief Wagner advised that the department currently has five positions open and as of October 2024, there will be six.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Seese
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Secretary