

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
14 FEBRUARY 2023**

PRESENT:

DAVID W MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-SECRETARY
WILLIAM WEIMER	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-TREASURER
BRENDON CARROLL	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
CRAYSON CHEUNG	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
KURT CUMMINGS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
TRACY FOX	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE

ABSENT:

DAVID CARBONE	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
RANDY ALTEMOSE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER
DON STRUCKLE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER
HARRY COLEMAN, ESQ.		-HARRY COLEMAN LAW

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 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Moyer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an Executive Session prior to the Regular Meeting on litigation. The Executive Session started approximately 6:30 p.m. and ended approximately 6:55 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adopt the minutes of 10 January 2023 Reorganization/Regular Business Meeting, seconded by William Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 14 February 2023 in the amount of \$242,731.20, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Total calls for the month of January were 1073 consisting of 969 Complaints and 104 Accidents. There were a total of 105 Criminal Arrests, 109 Traffic Arrests, 129 Traffic Warnings and 12 Ordinance Arrests.

Chief Wagner advised that the Speed Timing/Vascar statistics would be categorized differently on the monthly report going forward. The Chief reviewed 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 January Police Report, seconded by William Weimer.

Kurt Cummings asked Chief Wagner if the fraud category of crimes was due to retail theft. Chief Wagner responded that retail theft charges do not fall under this heading and that it is mostly identity theft and credit card fraud.

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

VEHICLE REPORT:

Chief Wagner reviewed the mileage and expense report for January.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the January Vehicle Report, seconded by William Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Hiring Bonuses**

The challenge and difficulty in law enforcement to recruit new officers is significant and continues to grow. The industry is continuously looking for new and creative ways to attract qualified candidates. Chief Wagner explained that while the application for American Recovery Act funds included a request for hiring and retention bonuses, the award has still not been offered as of today's date. Chief Wagner asked the board for discussion and approval of the Commission's support in funding the \$10,000 hiring bonuses from the budget in the event that they are not approved through the ARA Grant. The department is currently down six officers.

The Chief's primary concern is to get the hiring process started to avoid any further delays which could result in delaying Academy enrollment for up to one year.

Fran DePiano asked if retention bonuses would also be part of the plan. Chief Wagner replied in the affirmative. Retention bonuses were written into the grant request as well but are a separate line item from hiring bonuses.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve a \$10,000 hiring bonuses for new officers and the advertising for same, seconded by William Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

- **4th Quarter Treasurer Report**

General Fund-\$4,255,666.66, Prescription Fund-\$36,872.28, Capital Projects Fund-\$14,605.94, Asset Forfeiture Fund-\$386,441.15, Capital Reserve Fund-\$396,868.37, Police Pension Fund-\$25,464,876.00, Non-Uniform Pension Fund-\$273,180.65.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the 4th Quarter Treasurers Report, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously

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

Chief presented the Preliminary 4th Quarter Budget Report indicating that the department came in 5.2% under budget pending any Financial Audit adjustments.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to accept the Preliminary 4th Quarter Treasurers Report, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Thankful for the continued commitment of service and coverage at municipal meetings.

Tunkhannock Township – Thanked the officers for their dedication and perseverance.

Coolbaugh – Gratitude was expressed for the support provided to PMREMS. Commended the department for its professionalism and meeting coverage.

Mount Pocono – Absent.

Barrett Township – Conveyed appreciation for the officer presence in the community.

- **LSA Grant**

No update at this time.

- **American Recovery Act Grant**

No update at this time.

- **Rolling Shelves**

The rolling shelves have been installed at a complete cost of \$10,067.00.

- **2023 Hiring Process**

Chief Wagner will move forward with the hiring process as soon as possible and include the \$10,000 hiring bonus approved earlier in the meeting.

- **Pension**

The next quarterly meeting is Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

January 16 – Chief Wagner attended the Martin Luther King breakfast at Stroudsmoor.

January 23 – Lt. Vogt and Cpl. Chaffee attended a Criminal Justice class at the Monroe County Career & Technical Institute and reviewed traffic stops with the students.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Jeanine Hofbauer spoke about the Back-the-Blue fundraiser that is going on now through March 5, 2023 and asked everyone to promote the event. The shirts can be purchased through a link on the website and Facebook page of the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Foundation.

Janice Smith-Hughes of Coolbaugh Township thanked the department and Chief Wagner for their service and presence in Pocono Farms East.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dave Moyer. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned approximately 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Seese
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Secretary