

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
12 March 2024**

PRESENT:

DAVID MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
FRANCIS DePIANO	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-VICE CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM WEIMER	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-TREASURER
KURT CUMMINGS	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
TRACY FOX	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
CRAYSON CHEUNG	-TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
UNFILLED	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
UNFILLED	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
RANDY ALTEMOSE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE
OWEN COLEMAN		-HARRY COLEMAN LAW

ABSENT:

JOHN SEESE	-BARRETT TOWNSHIP	-SECRETARY
DON STRUCKLE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-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 7:00 p.m. by Chairman David Moyer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an Executive Session held prior to the Regular Meeting regarding personnel and litigation. The Executive Session began at approximately 6:15 p.m. and ended at 6:59 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the 21 February 2024 minutes as presented. Randy Altemose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motions:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-Pack of 21 February 2024 in the amount of \$226,823.20, motion seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Wagner advised the total calls for the month of February were 904, consisting of 841 Complaints and 63 Accidents. There was a total of 72 Criminal Arrests, 166 Traffic Arrests, 185 Traffic Warnings and nine Ordinance Arrests.

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

Kurt Cummings inquired if there was a particular reason for the increase in traffic arrests/warnings to which Chief Wagner advised the LPR's were in service and being used proactively. With the LPR's being used regularly, Chief Wagner expects these numbers to be higher now than in past months.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the February Police Report as presented, the motion was seconded by William Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

VEHICLE REPORT

Chief Wagner discussed the high mileage vehicles for the month, Car 2 being the highest with Car 14 having the second highest. He further went on to discuss the costs of two vehicles. Car 3's expenses totaled \$705.35 for general maintenance; and Car 5's expenses totaled \$1,006.28 after needing a water pump replacement and with general maintenance. Car 9 was sold on Municibid for \$8,600 and Car 46 sold for \$5,200.

Chief Wagner further advised that a settlement had been reached in the amount of \$22,997.00 for Car 44 after being involved in an MVA in Mount Pocono. The settlement payment will be put toward the replacement of an unmarked vehicle.

Chief Wagner advised that three of the fleet vehicles are currently upfitted with M500's while the upfitting of other fleet vehicles is underway. The patrol pcs obtained through the local law enforcement grant have been installed on all fleet vehicles.

Motion

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the February Vehicle Report and the motion was seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Personnel:**

Chief Wagner advised that he and Mary Ellen have been going through applications for the open Data Entry Clerk position. On March 5th, 2024, three candidates were interviewed. After review, Amanda Seese was selected, and Chief Wagner requested a motion to present an offer of employment.

Motion

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the offer of employment to Amanda Seese for the Data Entry Clerk position. William Weimer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Policy 7-3 License Plate Recognition:**

Chief Wagner advised that with the implementation of the LPR systems, he created an LPR (License Plate Recognition) Policy. Highlights of the new policy were reviewed by Chief Wagner. All

Commission members were provided with the policy in its entirety. Chief Wagner asked for approval and a motion to enact policy 7-3 License Plate Recognition.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the enactment of policy 7-3 License Plate Recognition. William Weimer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Policy 7-2 Mobile Audio and Visual Recording:**

Chief Wagner advised that with the soft deployment of the body cameras on Sergeants Miller and Posluszny, some bugs have been brought to his attention. Chief Wagner reported that the current policy for A/V recording includes instruction to alert a subject that they are being audio and visually recorded. This has been seemingly effective at traffic stops because everyone is typically contained within the vehicle. With the new body cameras, once the recording begins, any person in view of the camera is potentially being recorded without their knowledge. Chief Wagner advised that it is not practical to alert every passerby. Chief Wagner researched language on notification of audio and visual recordings and learned that it is not required by law to notify all passersby. Chief Wagner proposed language updates in Policy 7-2 Mobile Audio and Visual Recording to reflect the same.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the proposed language updates of Policy 7-2 Mobile Audio and Visual Recording. William Weimer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Chairman David Moyer commended the department.

Tunkhannock Township – Vice-Chairman Fran DePiano advised he was in a motor vehicle accident involving a deer. Officer Soto arrived on scene and was outstanding and professional.

Coolbaugh Township – Treasurer William Weimer stated the continued presence in Coolbaugh Township has been outstanding, and greatly appreciated.

Mount Pocono Borough – Commission Member Randy Altemose brought to Chief Wagner's attention that illegal parking in the fire lanes continues to be a problem.

- **American Recovery Act Grant**

Chief Wagner advised that the American Recovery Act Grant projects are moving along well. The IT project portion was the largest project request of this grant and took up the majority of the funding. Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department recently purchased its own servers to increase the storage capabilities to accommodate the new video storage requirements. Chief Wagner further reiterated that the LPR's are in service, the M500 car cams are currently in three of the fleet vehicles, and the department is in the soft roll out of body cameras and the laser scanner is operational. The only pieces of equipment still pending are SWAT communication gear.

- **2024 Hiring Process**

Chief Wagner advised the PT test for 26 eligible candidates will take place on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the ESU Fieldhouse.

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

Chief Wagner advised the Tobyhanna Township inter-municipal agreement amendment is still in discussions between Attorney Coleman and Mount Pocono Borough Council solicitor, James Fareri, Esq. and recommended that the subject be tabled until further notice.

- **Pension**

Chief Wagner advised that the pension packet was provided to every member of the police commission and discussed several figures and trending points of the pension packet.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the Pension Report as presented. William Weimer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Community Events and Letters of Support**

Chief Wagner advised there were no community events in the month of February 2024.

- **Public Participation**

Chief Wagner advised he did receive two emails regarding the crash that occurred just outside of our jurisdiction, in Kidder Township. PMRPD officers responded and arrived on scene before any other agencies. Emails were received from the Chief of Kidder Township Police Department and the Tobyhanna Bureau of Fire, commending these officers for their service and expertise.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



William Weimer
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Treasurer