

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
09 May 2023**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

DAVID CARBONE	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
DON STRUCKLE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER

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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, called to order on May 9, 2023 at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Moyer and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

**Motion:**

Fran DePiano made a motion to adopt the minutes of 11 April 2023, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVE BILLS:**

**Motion:**

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 11 April 2023 in the amount of \$174,779.76 seconded by Tracy Fox. The motion passed unanimously.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Total calls for the month of April were 1141, consisting of 1063 Complaints and 78 Accidents. There were a total of 87 Criminal Arrests, 138 Traffic Arrests, 172 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. Kurt Cummings asked a question regarding the charges of Sexual Assault and Rape. The Chief gave a brief explanation of the differences between them.

**Motion:**

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

**VEHICLE REPORT:**

Chief Wagner reviewed the high monthly mileage vehicles of the fleet and vehicle expenses for the month of April. There is a typo noted on the monthly mileage of #38 (2018 Harley). He also stated that the new traffic vehicle - Car #3 went on the road last week.

**Motion:**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Accreditation:**

Chief Wagner stated the department is scheduled to be assessed on 2 June 2023. This will be the fifth assessment for PMRPD. He explained that there are approximately 1400 Pennsylvania agencies and only 149 are accredited departments. He explained that there are 125 standards, and the assessment team ensures the department follows best practices and produces proof(s) of compliance. He stated the first assessment was in 2011. PMRPD was reaccredited in 2014, 2017 and 2020. 2023 is the fifth accreditation which will qualify the department for premier status. The Chief went on to explain the meaning of premier status. Chief Wagner previously asked the commission for a motion to allow him to make changes to policies if needed. He asked the commission once again to consider a motion allowing him to make the necessary changes for accreditation and report back to the commission.

**Motion:**

Fran DiPiano made a motion to allow the necessary changes to policies if needed, seconded by Tracy Fox. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Policy 5-3 Recruit Level Training Revision:**

Prior to the formal accreditation assessment, the department went through a “mock” assessment. The purpose of this assessment is for the mock team to review random areas and recommend changes that might hold up the actual assessment. One of these recommendations was for Subsection B of Police 5-3 Recruit Level Training Revision to reflect the actual number of hours (320) required with an FTO versus the current wording of a minimum of eight weeks.

**Motion:**

Fran DiPiano made a motion for the policy change, seconded by Brendan Carroll.. The motion passed unanimously.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget vs Actual**

The Chief went over the current quarterly Budget-to-Actual report. He stated that the department is currently under budget by approximately seven percent.

**Motion:**

Fran DiPano made a motion to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget vs Actual, seconded by Brendan Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report**

The Chief reviewed the receipts, disbursements and balances of each account for the Commission.

**Motion:**

Fran DiPiano made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Treasurer's Report, seconded by William Weimer. The vote passed unanimously.

**UPDATE:**

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Thank you for having officers at township meetings.

Tunkhannock Township – Thank you.

Barrett Township – Thank you to all the officers.

Coolbaugh Township – Stated some concerns with neighboring citizens coming to their meetings. Also, Bill Weimer thanked the Chief for the presence of police officers at meetings and throughout the community. He stated that the township is still experiencing issues with tractor trailers on Route 423. Additionally, there are concerns with Echo Lake Road and recent accidents. Lastly, it was mentioned that on the straight away by the gas station, tractor trailers are parking in the right-of-way for Penn Dot.

Kurt Cummings said that he is hopeful that the department will be able to fill all the open officer positions.

Mount Pocono Borough – Thanked the Chief for providing the breakdown of thefts by business. He also stated that the *Coffee with a Cop* program was a success and would like to see it continued.

- **LSA Grant**

No new update on the LSA Grant. Chief Wagner stated a meeting is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> and the awards should follow shortly thereafter.

- **American Recovery Act Grant**

Chief Wagner advised that he is still working on getting revised quotes. He briefed the commission with his frustration with the current IT team. The department is waiting for the quotes to come in at which time he will update the application.

- **2022/2023 Hiring Process**

There were 71 applicants who appeared for the written exam on April 2, 2023. The test results came back with 39 failing the written test and/or a 55% failure rate. 32 candidates took the PT test on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Pocono Mountain West High School. There were 10 candidates withdrawn from the process and 4 failed. Round One of the interviews will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Chief, both lieutenants and a sergeant or corporal will interview the first round of the 18 eligible candidates and rank the top ten. The list of ten will then go through a second interview consisting of the Chief, both lieutenants, sergeant and/or corporal plus a commission member. Chief is looking to schedule second round two interviews on June 5<sup>th</sup>. It's a tight turnaround to get the candidates into the academy. The Chief asked for a volunteer from the Commission to participate in the second round of interviews. Tracy Fox volunteered.

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Sgt. LaRue and Cpl. Nero with K-9 Creed spoke at MCTI.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Cpl. Nero with K9 Creed spoke at the Briar Crest Woods Community Meeting.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lt. Vogt and Cpl. Chaffee assisted in judging the National Occupational Competency testing at Monroe County Vo-tech.

- March 25<sup>th</sup> – Lt. Vogt spoke at Northampton Community College to the Project Success Summer Youth Employment Program.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Janice Smith-Hughes from Pocono Farms East thanked the Chief, Commission and officers for their community service and keeping everyone safe. Ms. Hughes-Smith extended congratulations to retired Officers Lutz and Carey. She also extended an invitation and advised that Pocono Farms East will hold their meeting on the last Saturday of October and will be providing breakfast.

As a manager in the community, Ms. Hughes-Smith had some questions for Chief Wagner as to what rises to the level of the charge of Disorderly Conduct.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

Brendon Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tracy Fox. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Seese  
Pocono Mountain Regional Police  
Commission Secretary