

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
09 AUGUST 2022**

PRESENT:

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
TONY LAMANTIA	-COOLBAUGH 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:

DAVID W MOYER	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-CHAIRMAN
DAVID CARBONE	-TOBYHANNA 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 7:05 p.m. by Vice Chairman DePiano with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an Executive Session prior to the Regular Meeting on 09 August 2022 on Personnel. The Executive Session started approximately 6:35 p.m. and ended approximately 6:50 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to adopt the minutes of 12 July 2022, seconded by Kurt Cummings. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motion:

Bill Weimer made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 09 August 2022 in the amount of \$147,875.27, seconded by Crayson Cheung. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Total calls for the month of July were 1449 consisting of 1360 Complaints and 89 Accidents. There were a total of 93 Criminal Arrests, 134 Traffic Arrests, 139 Traffic Warnings and 3 Ordinance Arrests.

Chief Wagner went over the monthly and year to date activity numbers per municipality as well as the UCR Crime Stats.

Motion:

Bill Weimer made a motion to accept the July Police Report, seconded by Brendon Carroll.

Kurt Cummings asked if Retail Theft offenses were included in the Larceny – Theft category to which the Chief replied in the affirmative.

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

VEHICLE REPORT:

Chief Wagner reviewed the mileage and expense report for July 2022. Chief Wagner stated that one car is temporarily out of service due to parts not being available because of supply chain issues and another is out of service due to a bad compressor. The Chief will explore and evaluate the options of repair or replacement.

Additionally, the Chief advised the Board that the antennas the department has been waiting on have arrived, however, the WatchGuard cameras are still on backorder. The current backorder time on the cameras for 2023 is one year. The Chief indicated that in 2023 some vehicles that will be decommissioned have the WatchGuard Cameras that could be installed in a new vehicle. Until the backordered cameras are delivered, some cars may not be fully equipped.

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to accept the July Vehicle Report, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Speed Studies**

Chief Wagner reviewed the July Speed Studies conducted at the following locations:

Long Pond Road at the Tunkhannock Township Firehouse
Stoney Hollow Road
Yellowstone Drive at Palisades

- **2nd Quarter Budget vs. Actual Review**

Chief presented and reviewed the Second Quarter Budget vs Actual report for 2022.

Motion:

Bill Weimer made a motion to accept the Second Quarter Budget vs Actual Report, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

- **2nd Quarter Treasurer Report**

General Fund-\$4,586,712.01, Prescription Fund-\$27,703.89 Capital Projects Fund-\$5,490.71, Asset Forfeiture Fund-\$362,420.11, Capital Reserve Fund-\$319,623.69, Police Pension Fund-\$25,493,567.33, Non-Uniform Pension Fund-\$263,139.80.

Motion:

Bill Weimer made a motion to accept the Second Quarter Treasurer's Report, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

- **2023 Budget**

The 2023 Budget process is approaching and the first order of business is to form a Budget Committee. With the understanding that the Police Commission is comprised of eleven (11) members, a quorum is six (6), Chief Wagner requested a maximum of five (5) members on the Budget Committee. The Chief requested the Commission form the Budget Committee and suggested one member from each municipality participate.

The following members were nominated or volunteered for the 2023 Budget Committee:

DAVID CARBONE
FRANCES DEPIANO
DON STRUCKLE
BILL WEIMER
JOHN SEESE

TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP
TUNKHANNOCK TOWNSHIP
BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO
COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP
BARRETT TOWNSHIP

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Brendon Carroll thanked the department for their continued service.

Tunkhannock Township – Fran DePiano commended Chief Wagner and all the officers who patrolled the Pocono Raceway on the weekend of July 22-24, 2022. The law enforcement interaction was minimal with one of the largest crowds in a while.

Coolbaugh – Bill Weimer expressed his gratitude for the presence and participation in their National Night Out. It was very well presented and the officers were commended for their ultimate professionalism.

Mount Pocono –Randy Altemose thanked Chief Wagner for the increased foot patrols near local businesses. Don Struckle asked if there is a list or report of short term rentals who have had complaints. Chief Wagner responded that the department would not know if a property is a short term rental but can supply a report that can be cross referenced.

Barrett Township – John Seese extended sincere appreciation to Sgt. LaRue and Officer Eichler for their expertise in handling an incident.

- **2022/2023 Hiring Process**

1. Chief Wagner introduced MaryEllen Sands-Drost who was offered and accepted the position of Executive Assistant and will ultimately replace Kathy Matisak.

Chief Wagner referenced Mary Ellen Sands-Drost's employment agreement which he previously discussed with the Commission and asked for a Motion to approve.

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to accept the employment agreement for MaryEllen Sands-Drost, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Chief Wagner next read a resignation letter from Marianne Avosso, resigning her Cleaning / Secretary position effective December 31, 2022. Chief requested a motion to accept Marianne's resignation and a subsequent motion to move forward with filling her position

Motion:

Bill Weimer made a motion to accept the resignation of Marianne Avosso, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Wagner clarified that Marianne's position was part time cleaning and part time secretary but the department is looking to move this position to a full-time secretarial position as it has been extremely challenging to find candidates for this unusual blend of jobs. The cleaning position would remain part-time.

Motion:

Bill Weimer made a motion to fill the position to a full-time secretary and proceed with hiring, seconded by Brendon Carroll. With no additional comments or concerns, the motion passed unanimously.

3. At the July Regular Business Meeting, the Commission accepted the resignation of Laura Deane. Chief Wagner read a letter he received from Ms. Deane dated July 16, 2022 wherein she requests to rescind her resignation due to a change in personal circumstances. Chief Wagner expressed his support of Ms. Deane's resignation reversal as she has been a valued employee for many years.

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to accept the withdrawal of Ms. Deane's resignation, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

- **LSA Grant**

Chief reiterated that the department is looking to deploy a License Plate Reader Program (LPR Program) and will be applying for a grant for same. Quotes received from Motorola came to approximately \$40,000.00 to upfit 2 vehicles and a mobile platform. To fund this program we are looking to the LSA Grant.

Since the last meeting, the Chief had a discussion with a local state representative who advised that it would be best for the department to also put in a grant request through Pennsylvania Gaming for a vehicle. If this grant were to be awarded, it would outfit the department with a new vehicle with an LPR system and the second LPR would be installed into one of the new 2023 vehicles.

Chief Wagner advised that the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Foundation did vote to fund the cost of the Grant Writer Eve Wenger and it is his hope that any costs to the department would be minimal. The Chief will be sending out requests for letters of support to be included in the grant proposal.

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to add a vehicle to the LSA Grant request, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Pension**

Next Pension Meeting 8/16/2022.

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

Chief Wagner read a letter received from Tracy Fox of Pocono Mountain Regional EMS thanking Officer Scott Dunlap for presenting a training class in Crime Scene Evidence and Preservation on July 15, 2022.

The Chief also reviewed an email sent to him by Clare Colgan, Supervisor of Coolbaugh Township. She was involved in a MVA and was grateful to Sgt. Mecca for the compassion and professionalism he displayed.

July 10th – Officer Michaels and Officer Metzger attended Lake Naomi Timber Trails 5K at the Pocono Mountain West High School.

July 13th – Officer Smelas stopped at 35 Pocono Boulevard for a child's birthday party.

July 14 – Officer Smelas spoke at the Pocono's Best Camp in Pocono Pines.

July 14th – Cpl. Chaffee spoke at the Faith Lutheran Church in Pocono Lake about active shooters.

July 19th – Officer Smelas spoke at Wee Ones Day Care.

July 17-22 – Officer Wile attended Camp Cadet Troop N as a guest counselor.

July 24 – Sgt. Posluszny spoke about fraud at the Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines.

July 25th – Officer Smelas walked through the Borough and met many business owners on Main Street in Mount Pocono.

July 28th – Officer Smelas spoke at Tobyhanna Elementary School.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned approximately 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Seese
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Secretary