

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
13 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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
TONY LAMANTIA	-COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
DON STRUCKLE	-MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH	-MEMBER
CHRIS WAGNER		-CHIEF OF POLICE
OWEN COLEMAN		-HARRY COLEMAN LAW

ABSENT:

DAVID CARBONE	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
RANDY ALTEMOSE	-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 Moyer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session prior to the Regular Meeting on 13 September 2022.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to adopt the minutes of 09 August 2022, seconded by Kurt Cummings. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE BILLS:

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 13 September 2022 in the amount of \$277,265.67, seconded by Kurt Cummings. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

Total calls for the month of July were 1324 consisting of 1240 Complaints and 84 Accidents. There were a total of 100 Criminal Arrests, 213 Traffic Arrests, 169 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 inquired as to whether or not the increase of dispensaries in the area has had an effect on the drug charges statistics. The Chief replied that while most do not have a medical marijuana card, the number of persons possessing one has increased. The law states that if an individual possesses a medical marijuana card must have the

product in its original packaging and the person must have the card on them. Violations of the conditions to possess result in arrest.

Motion:

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

VEHICLE REPORT:

Chief Wagner reviewed the mileage and expense report for August 2022. Chief Wagner will continue to explore and evaluate the options of repair or replacement. When the 2023 vehicles arrive, the Chief will determine which vehicles will be decommissioned.

Chief Wagner advised the Commission that the watchguard cameras have arrived. All of the new 2022 vehicles are deployed. There is one vehicle that has yet to be striped but is out on the road. The vehicles will be upfitted as the schedule permits.

Motion:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2021 Financial Audit**

The 2021 Financial Audit was presented by Carl Hogan of BBD, LLC. The examination of the financial report of the department was extremely favorable with no outstanding issues. Mr. Hogan reviewed the history of the Department's expenses and debits as well as the trends, adding that the market right now is unpredictable at best.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the 2021 Financial Report, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Resolution 022-05 – Disposition of Records**

Chief Wagner presented to the Commission Resolution 2022-005 Disposition of Records. This resolution proposes the destruction of files, traffic citations, criminal histories, investigative files and other documents that meet the requirements of the Pennsylvania State Law. Chief Wagner requested the Commission to approve Resolution 2022-005.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-005 – Disposition of Records, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.

- **2023 MMO**

- 1) Police – \$394,635.00
- 2) Non-Uniform – \$9,552.00

Chief Wagner presented the MMO figures to the Board. On a positive note, the 2023 MMO's are less than the previous year.

- **APPI Electricity Renewal**

The contract for the electric supplier is up for renewal. A rate comparison completed by APPI determined that as of September 1, 2022, APG&E came in with the lowest rate of 0.009975 kWh. As the energy market is trending upward, APPI recommended the department lock in the rate for a three-year contract. Chief Wagner made the executive decision to proceed with the rate-lock and requested the board to approve.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to approve a three-year contract with APPI locking in the rate of 0.009975 kWh for 2023, seconded by John Seese. The motion passed unanimously

- **Speed Studies**

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

State Route 423 at Powerlines – Coolbaugh Township
State Route 940 at Mountaintop Lodge
State Route 390 at Leavitt Road – Barrett Township

- **American Recovery Act Grant**

Chief Wagner received notice that federal funding through the American Recovery Act is coming through specifically earmarked for law enforcement. The Chief is in the process of evaluating the grant conditions and preliminarily believes that the department could significantly benefit. Chief Wagner has an upcoming meeting with grant writer Eve Wenger to assess the possibilities. Chief Wagner asked the Commission for permission to pursue the American Recovery Act Grant.

Motion:

Francis DePiano made a motion to move forward with an application for the American Recovery Act Grant, seconded by Brendon Carroll. The motion passed unanimously

- **2023 Hiring Process**

The Chief presented the procedural timeline necessary to recruit potential new hires for 2023 and asked for permission to begin the 2023 hiring process.

Motion:

Bill Weimer made a motion to begin the 2023 hiring process, seconded by Kurt Cummings. The motion passed unanimously.

- **2023 Vehicle Order**

Chief Wagner reiterated that it may, once again, be sensible to preorder vehicles due to production lag time. The department was notified on September 8, 2022 by New Holland Auto that Ford Motor Vehicles was cutting off early orders on September 9, 2022 because they could not guarantee delivery. The Chief, after notifying Chairman Moyer and Vice Chairman DePiano of the situation, made the executive decision to place an order for four vehicles. The Chief reviewed the quotes as well as the cost of upfitting which included an unmarked patrol vehicle.

Brendon Carroll made the recommendation to add another vehicle to the order and referenced the benefits of having a floating vehicle in the fleet.

Motion:

Brendon Carroll made a motion to approve the Chief's vehicle request and add an additional vehicle to the order. John Seese seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE:

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

Tobyhanna Township – Brendon Carroll thanked the Chief for having an officer present at the Supervisor's Meeting and commended the entire department.

Tunkhannock Township – Fran DePiano complimented the presence of officers at the concert at the track. Everything was controlled and smooth thanks to the force. It was an incredible amount of work that resulted in many positive comments.

Coolbaugh – Bill Weimer thanked the department for their continued presence and for the nearly 800 patrol hours this month. He is extremely grateful for the extra car in Coolbaugh Township.

Mount Pocono – Don Struckle thanked the Chief for the informational reports that are presented every month. Chief Wagner provided details as to the request for statistics that may be related to short term rental in the borough.

Barrett Township – John Seese stated that they put some speed lines on Lower Seese Road and wanted to notify the Chief to make the officers aware and possibly send some presence to the locations.

- **2023 Budget**

Chief Wagner presented the 2023 Budget Draft 1 to the Commission. Chief Wagner stated that there is an increase over last year's budget and examined what is contractual and line items that are not contractual. He explained the process for arriving at the figures and the outside factors that must be considered. The Budget Draft must be sent to the municipalities on or before October 1, 2022.

Vice-Chairman DePiano commented that the carry-over from 2022 will certainly ease the pain of the increase and commended the Chief on a job well done.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the Budget Draft I and send to the municipalities. The motion was seconded by Bill Weimer and passed unanimously.

- **LSA Grant**

Chief Wagner provided an update of the LSA Grant Application. He is still working with Eve Wenger and still on track to submit prior to the deadline.

- **Pension**

The Pension Meeting was held on August 16, 2022. Chief Wagner reviewed the Quarterly Performance Review which has been affected somewhat negatively by current events. The economic future trends remain uncertain.

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the 2022 Second Quarter Pension Report, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Community Events / Letters of Support**

Chief Wagner read a letter received from Pocono Country Place thanking the department for their support and participation in the annual National Night Out event which was held on August 2, 2022.

The Chief also reviewed a letter to Corporal Chaffee. The letter is from a resident that had dealings with Cpl. Chaffee at a difficult time in her life when she was in active addiction. She stated that she did not forget the kindness and words of encouragement shown to her and her boyfriend from Cpl. Chaffee and others. She wanted to let them know she is grateful and a success story just celebrating being 6.5 years clean.

The following are the community events attended by the department:

August 2nd – Chief Wagner, Lt. Williams, Officer Smelas, Officer Lutkowski and Officer Swingle attended National Night Out in Tobyhanna Township.

August 2nd – Lt. Vogt, Cpl. Chaffee, Officer Wile and Detective Scarfo attended National Night Out at Pocono Country Place.

August 12th – Lt. Vogt, Det. VanNote and Det. Venneman handed out Gatorade and ice pops to the Pocono Mountain West football team after practice.

August 17th – Sgt. LaRue, Cpl. Nero and K9 Creed did a canine demonstration at Lake Naomi Day Camp.

August 20th – Officer Ksepka and Officer Schneider were at the Barrett Twp Community Day at High Acres Park.

August 25th – Chief Wagner, Lt. Vogt, Det. Sgt. Bray, Sgt. Posluszny, Officer Saprana, Officer Parrent and MaryEllen attended the EMS benefit at Sky Top Lodge.

August 29th - Officers, members of the PMRPF attended the PMRPF Golf Outing. It was an incredible success and thank you to Janine Hofbauer for the wonderful job she did coordinating the event.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Janine Hofbauer extended sincere thanks to Pine Crest for doing an incredible job at the Golf Outing.

Mr. Carl Hamilton suggested that lines be painted in the parking lot of the department as it is difficult to see the edges at night. Chief Wagner advised that they will be done shortly.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

Fran DePiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned approximately 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Seese
Pocono Mountain Regional Police
Commission Secretary