

**POCONO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
12 September 2023**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

DAVID CARBONE	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
BRENDON CARROL	-TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP	-MEMBER
RANDY ALTEMOSE	-BOROUGH OF MOUNT POCONO	-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 September 8th, 2023, at 7:15 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 8 August 2023.

On the question, Chief Wagner asked for a motion to approve the updated minutes of the Commission Meeting of 11 July 2023. Commission member Altemose questioned the public comment made by Edward Tutrone and that the minutes reflect the parties involved in the alleged verbal altercation in Pocono Pines. Additionally, it was noted that Kurt Cummings arrived late for the 11 July meeting and was listed in error as absent in the minutes.

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept and adopt the changes in the 11 July 2023 minutes to include Commissioner David Carbone as the member involved in the alleged incident and to indicate the attendance of Commission Member Cummings.

Bill Weimer seconded the motion to accept the changes to the minutes of the 11 July 2023 PMRPC meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

Bill Weimer also seconded Vice-Chairman DePiano's motion to accept the 8 August 2023 minutes and it passed unanimously.

### **APPROVE BILLS:**

#### **Motion:**

Fran DePiano made a motion to approve the Bill-pack of 12 September 2023 in the amount of \$229,818.65, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

### **POLICE REPORT:**

Total calls for the month of August were 1289, consisting of 1188 Complaints and 101 Accidents. There was a total of 78 Criminal Arrests, 174 Traffic Arrests, 171 Traffic Warnings and 6 Ordinance Arrests.

#### **Motion:**

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

### **VEHICLE REPORT:**

The Chief went over the high and low mileages of fleet vehicles. Chief Wagner advised that Car 8 was in a motor vehicle accident while Cpl. Derek Chaffee (Y63) was driving, however, he was not injured and remained in service. Chief Wagner advised there have been no updates on the new 2023 Ford vehicles that are on order. Chief Wagner has also requested pricing and availability information on Dodge vehicles.

#### **Motion:**

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

### **2023 PENSION ACTUARIAL REPORT:**

The 2023 Pension Actuarial Report was presented by John Vargo from Conrad Siegel. The examination of the fund and status of the plan have decreased as 2022 was a poor investment year in the market. Things have smoothed out and the plan continues to be strong. The fund is currently paying 32 retirees on a monthly basis.

Mr. Vargo anticipates the 2023 state aid for the pension to be in the \$350,000 range. Vice-Chairman DePiano asked Mr. Vargo if it would be beneficial to drop the interest rate assumption to 7.25. At this time, Mr. Vargo recommended reevaluating this in 2024.

#### **Motion:**

Fran DiPiano made a motion to accept the 2023 Pension Actuarial Report, seconded by Bill Weimer. The motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **2024 MMO**

- 1) Police – \$459,974.00
- 2) Non-Uniform – \$11,443.00

Chief Wagner presented the MMO figures to the Board and mentioned that the figures do not include the state aid which will be announced in the next few weeks.

- **Speed Studies**

Chief Wagner reviewed some of the Speed Studies conducted in July and August at the following locations:

Kuhlenbeaker in the curves Westbound – Tunkhannock Twp.  
State Route 940 Twin Lakes Eastbound – Tobyhanna Township  
Mountain Drive, Summit Point Northbound – Coolbaugh Township  
State Route 423 @ Tobyhanna Army Depot, Southbound – Coolbaugh Township  
State Route 390 at Mountainhome Deli, Northbound - Barrett Township

- **Personnel**

Chief Wagner request the Commission to present a motion to fill the vacant position left by the retirement of Sr. Data Entry Clerk, Laura Deane. Interviews have been conducted and background investigations are currently underway.

**Motion:**

Fran DePiano made a motion to fill the vacant non-uniform position. The motion was seconded by Bill Weimer and passed unanimously.

Chief Wagner advised the Commission that Officer Rzeszewski tendered her resignation to the department effective today, September 12, 2023, and asked for a motion to accept same.

**Motion:**

Fran DePiano made a motion to accept the resignation of Officer Rzeszewski. The motion was seconded by Bill Weimer and passed unanimously.

**UPDATE:**

- **Member Municipality Concerns**

**Tobyhanna Township** – The Department is doing a great job. Thank you.

**Tunkhannock Township** – Thanks to the officers who did an outstanding job at the Elements Festival. There are meetings scheduled with the event organizer to address the backlash and concerns from the local residents.

**Coolbaugh Township** – Bill Weimer requested some additional services as the Township is currently under 1000 hours. The Township very much appreciated the support from the department at the First Responder Ceremony on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

Citizens have concerns that trains are parking in their backyards.

**Mount Pocono Borough** – Requested an officer to patrol Harvest Fest on Saturday, September 23, 2023. Chief Wagner confirmed that this is already scheduled for police presence. The Borough expressed appreciation for the crime reports.

The Mount Pocono Borough Council is interested in purchasing a vehicle for the Borough Manager and asked Chief Wagner to let them know if the department is selling any of the patrol cars.

**Barrett Township** – The Municipal Building Administration and offices have moved over to the new location at the school. The first Township Meeting at the new location will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

- **2024 Budget**

MaryEllen and Kathy will meet next week to finalize the first draft for the 2024 budget and Chief Wagner will send the DRAFT 1 Municipality Breakdown via email.

- **American Recovery Act Grant**

Chief Wagner reviewed the Purchase Orders that are ready for implementation. He gave a detailed explanation of each purchase order and is excited that there is forward movement after the delays of receiving the required updated quotes.

- **LSA Grant**

Through the LSA Grant, PMRPD was awarded a fully upfitted vehicle. The Purchase Orders are included in the packet for the car and the upfit. The vehicle has been received and the upfit is in the works.

- **Pension**

The pension meeting was held on August 15, 2023. Chief Wagner reviewed the most recent Pension Report and Non-Uniform Pension Report, noting that the economy is slow and inflation is up.

- **Community Events**

8/1/23 – Chief Wagner, Lt. Vogt, Cpl. Chaffee, Officer Michaels, Officer Ksepka, and Officer Swingle attended National Night Out in different locations throughout the municipalities.

8/4/23 – Officer Borger spoke at the Nurturing Arms Daycare in Coolbaugh Township.

8/4/23 – Officer Borger attended the Touch-a-Truck event at the Mount Pocono Borough Building.

8/12/23 – Officer Ksepka attended the Clymer Library Friends Fest/Mac & Cheese Bake-off and Book Sale fundraiser.

8/15/23 – Officer Wile spoke at Spruce Lake Day Camp.

8/19/23 – Officer Cinamella attended Community Day at the Arrowhead Lakes Association.

Commissioner Weimer then added that Officer Lutkowski and K9 Hilo assisted in a training with the fire department and thanked the department for their participation.

- **Letters of Support**

Email letter from Bike for Chai and the event organizers expressing their profound appreciation for the support assistance received each year from Pocono Mountain Regional Police at the Bike for Chai fundraiser for the International Childrens' Health Support Network.

Press Release from the Department of Justice, United States Attorney Gerard Karam, Middle District of Pennsylvania declaring the successful prosecution of a Lackawanna County man for the Drug Distribution resulting in death. The defendant was sentenced to life in prison as the result of a cooperative effort of agencies including the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department. Chief Wagner recognized the criminal investigators that put in countless hours on this case, specifically Cpl. Robert Miller.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was no public participation at this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

Chairman David Moyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fran DePiano. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Seese  
Pocono Mountain Regional Police  
Commission Secretary