

## CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

### Minutes

February 28, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission was called to order by Chairman John Abbott at 7:30 PM. All Commission members were present with the exception of Mr. Det Ansinn, Ms. Robyne Kelemen, and Mr. Jack O'Brien. Also present were Chief James Donnelly, Captain Karl Knott, Mr. David Sander, and Mr. John Davis. Mr. Abbott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT:** A motion was made by Mr. David Holewinski to dispense with the reading of the minutes from January 26, 2017 Commission meeting as amended to refine the language under Reorganization Commission Members to include all members, and approval to disburse \$103,721.61 from the general fund to pay invoices from January 21, 2017 to February 23, 2017; seconded by Mr. Ron Strouse. Motion approved.

**SPECIAL ITEMS:** N/A

### MONTHLY REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS:

**2016 Annual Report** – Chief Donnelly distributed the 2016 Annual Report which the Department will make available via the Department website, Facebook, and hard copies available at Borough offices. The report includes an organizational overview, introduction to Command Staff, personnel changes, calls for service statistics, crime statistics, budget overview, department initiatives, technology, and social media. After some discussion, it was determined the report would be distributed to elected officials in the surrounding jurisdictions as well.

**Monthly Activity Report** – Chief Donnelly reported 2,450 incidents for January (CB-495; DB-1518; NBB-437); reportable accidents totaled 9 (CB-0; DB-8; NBB-1); total Part I Crimes 10 (CB-0; DB-6, NBB-4); and total Part II Crimes totaled 40 (CB-7; DB-24; NBB-9). Chief Donnelly further explained a recent burglary in New Britain was cleared quickly and an armed robbery at the 7-11 store in New Britain is close to clearance.

**Budget Report** – Expenses for January 2017 were \$444,138.45 or 8.27% of the annual budget. There was discussion regarding contractual obligations at the beginning of the year including office equipment, insurance contributions, and Metro Alert records management system payments.

**Grant Funding Report** – Current grants include: PCCD Chief's Salary Grant Year 3, PLCB Underage and Dangerous Drinking Grant Year 2, DCED Municipal Assistance Grant 2<sup>nd</sup> Award, DOJ Body-Worn Camera Grant Collaboration Year 2, and DVIT Annual Power DMS Grant. Applications submitted/new opportunities include: BJA Smart Policing Collaboration, PLCB Underage and Dangerous Drinking Grant, DVIT and DVWCT grants for GPS, and Spirit of Blue Foundation Grant for ballistic equipment. There is an additional grant opportunity that the County is applying for that would provide a secondary grant to individual departments. Chief Donnelly stated if that grant becomes available, the Department would look at purchasing cell phone forensic software and become a custodian site for surrounding jurisdictions. Current jurisdictions with the forensic software include Warminster and Bensalem.

Mr. Strouse inquired the status of the Body-Worn Camera Grant. Chief Donnelly explained the Department currently possesses 23 body-worn cameras. The program is in Phase II testing. The cameras battery life is 11 hours and lasts the entire 12-hour shift, as the camera is only turned on during incident response. Video is automatically downloaded to the server when the camera is placed on the receiver. Chief Donnelly is scheduled to appear on a Department of Justice panel in October to discuss the hidden costs of deploying body-worn cameras. Some of the hidden costs include purchasing a server, licensing, software, etc.

Mr. Abbott inquired if the Smart Policing grant included using interns from Delaware Valley University. Chief Donnelly stated that interns will be used as part of the contractual research agreement under this grant with the University. The University will receive \$180,000 to conduct qualitative and quantitative data examining the effect of strategic collaboration across municipalities. He further explained a Smart Policing Room would house a crime map repository which would encompass all the jurisdictions in an effort for Departments to assist each other on investigations.

**Finance Committee Report** – Mr. Strouse reported the Finance Committee met on February 16, 2017. The Committee received and reviewed the annual report from Univest Municipal Pension Services for the uniformed and non-uniformed pension plans. As of December 31, 2016, the market value of the Uniformed Pension Plan was \$8.205M. Actual total return in 2016 was 8.94%. At the request of Commission members, Univest prepared a presentation on relative investment management styles and a detailed description of expenses including those imbedded in mutual funds. These and the current investment profile were discussed by the committee. The current investment profile is approximately 65% invested in equity mutual funds and 35% in fixed income bond funds, real estate and cash. The profile is the same for both the uniformed and non-uniformed pension plans. Beyond the Finance Committee members, several members of the Commission and staff representatives from each of the three boroughs attended the meeting

**Police Chief Search Committee** – Mr. Engel stated the Committee has met twice to date and have researched search firms narrowing it down to two firms: Safe City and Police Chiefs of PA Association. Additional requested information was recently received from both firms, however, has not been reviewed to date. Additional costs may be associated with the search including background checks on candidates which may run \$3,000 - \$5,000. Mr. Engel reported the Committee will have a recommendation to the Commission by the April meeting. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2017 at 3:00 PM.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Alarm Ordinances** – Mr. Abbott inquired about the consistency of alarm ordinances as discussed in the January 2017 meeting. Chief Donnelly reported the ordinances are currently being worked on.

**Civil Demonstrations** – Mr. John Davis stated the Borough Solicitor is preparing an ordinance and outline of regulations as it relates to civil demonstrations for first amendment activities. Mr. Davis

will share the information with New Britain and Chalfont Borough managers. Chief Donnelly has contacted the SRT Board to request two officers from each department north of Warminster to be available in an effort to handle demonstrations should the need arise. This would provide the ability to deploy 30-40 officers at any given time if needed. The cost would be borne on the individual municipality providing uniformed officers. Officers would be paired with CBRPD officers to ensure jurisdictional policies are followed. CBRPD is monitoring social media to identify upcoming events nationally and locally. The next anticipated large event is April 22, 2017 March for Science in Doylestown Borough. Chief Donnelly and Mr. Davis intend to meet with identified organizers of events in order to build a working relationship with them in an effort for the organizations to get their message out in a safe and orderly manner. Chief Donnelly assured the Commission that the Fire Company, hospital, ambulance, and emergency management are notified anytime an event is anticipated to have more than 500 people. There was some discussion regarding the rules for demonstrations held on the sidewalk in front of the courthouse. Chief Donnelly will work with the Sheriff's Department and the Bucks County Commissioners on the clarity of the right to protest at this location.

***Police-Led School Events*** – Mr. LaMontagne inquired about police involved events at the local schools. Mr. Holewinski stated he had just attended an event at Pine Run Elementary School with Captain Pat Penecale. Chief Donnelly explained police-led talks are held regularly at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***New Hire Testing*** – Chief Donnelly advised the Commission that new candidate testing for a full-time Police Officer was advertised and held over the past weekend. Twenty-five candidates passed the physical test and proceeded to the written test. Once the written test results are in, an Oral Board will be convened for interviews. The Department anticipates to hire an additional two full-time Police Officers by year end.

***Directive 4.7.2 – Juvenile Contact or Custody*** – The purpose of this directive is to ensure that the proper procedures are followed regarding the PA Juvenile Act when there is contact with juveniles and to serve as a guide for the CBRPD in determining how to handle a particular situation involving a juvenile. The policy has been approved by the DVIT attorney. A motion was made by Mr. Strouse to adopt Directive 4.7.2 – Juvenile Contact or Custody; seconded by Ms. Marilyn Becker. Motion approved.

***BEPAIR Program*** – Chief Donnelly advised the Commission the CBRPD is investigating the adoption of a new program to assist heroin addicts seeking help. The program has been deployed in Bensalem with great success. It proposed that an addict may come to the police station seeking assistance at which time if they are in possession of any drugs, they would be confiscated and destroyed with no criminal charges levied. Additionally, a search of NCIC would be executed to ensure they are no outstanding warrants; if a warrant exists, they would be taken into custody. A trained volunteer would then be called to the police station to escort the person to Livengren for assistance. The volunteer would stay with them through the intake or interview process. Livengren would not be able

to guarantee a bed but would make every effort for placement. The local cab company (333) has agreed to transport the volunteer and person to Livengren, free of charge. The program was received well by the Commission.

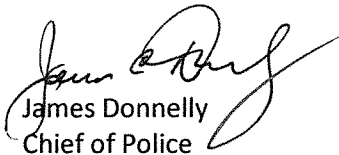
**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Joe Flood inquired about the potential for another Pub Crawl event during the St. Patrick's Day weekend. It was explained that the Pub Crawl did not take place during St. Patrick's Day last year and the police department does not have knowledge of another event planned.

Mr. Flood asked if the police department has heroin addicts coming in for help on a regular basis. And if so, what does the department do now. Chief Donnelly explained that currently they would transport the person to Doylestown Hospital. Chief Donnelly further stated that Narcan was used ten times and two heroin related deaths took place in the jurisdiction during 2016.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:48 PM, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session to discuss a Police Officer resignation letter and returned to Public Session at 8:54 PM. A motion was made by Mr. Strouse to uphold the original termination decision as discussed in the Executive Session; seconded by Mr. David Holewinski. Motion approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Strouse to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM; seconded by Mr. Holewinski. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James Donnelly  
Chief of Police