

CENTRAL BUCKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

Minutes

January 26, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission was called to order by Chairman David Holewinski at 7:30 PM. All Commission members were present. Also present were Chief James Donnelly, Captain Karl Knott, Mr. David Sander, and Mr. John Davis. Mr. Holewinski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS: Mr. David Holewinski commended the Central Bucks Regional Police Department, and specifically, Captain Karl Knott, for the police services provided on Saturday, January 21, 2017. Despite the unanticipated volume of demonstrators taxing the department's resources, the Department conducted themselves in a proud manner and ensured public safety with no reported incidents. To be further discussed under New Business – Civil Demonstrations.

REGORGANIZATION: The reorganization of the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission was held.

Commission Chairperson – Mr. John Abbott was nominated as Chairperson to the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission by Mr. Ron Strouse; seconded by Mr. Holewinski. Motion approved with no objections.

Commission Vice Chairperson – Mr. David Holewinski was nominated as Vice Chairperson to the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission by Mr. Strouse; seconded by Mr. Peter LaMontagne. Motion approved with no objections.

Commission Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Det Ansinn was nominated by Mr. Abbott; seconded by Mr. Strouse. Motion approved with no objections.

Commission Members – The Commission members will remain as 2017 represents the second year of a two-year term: Mr. Ron Strouse representing Doylestown Borough, Ms. Marilyn Becker representing Chalfont Borough, and Mr. Peter LaMontagne representing New Britain Borough.

Commission Alternate Members – The alternate Commission members will remain as 2017 represents the second year of a two-year term: Mr. Jack O'Brien representing Doylestown Borough, Mr. John Engel representing Chalfont Borough, and Ms. Robyne Kelemen representing New Britain Borough.

Commission Solicitor – A motion was made by Mr. Strouse to re-appoint Mr. David Sander, Kilkenny Law Offices, as Solicitor to the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission; seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion approved with no objections.

Commission Auditor – A motion was made by Mr. Ansinn to re-appoint Mr. Ed Furman, Maillie, LLP, as Auditor to the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission; seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion approved with no objections.

Commission Labor Attorney – A motion was made by Mr. Holewinski to re-appoint Mr. Scott Blissman, Eckert Seamans, as labor attorney to the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved with no objections.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Holewinski to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2016; seconded by Mr. LaMontagne. Motion approved with no objections.

FINANCE:

Reports - Chief Donnelly reported expenses for December YTD were \$4,889,967.35 which represents 95.89% of the annual budget. A motion was made by Mr. Strouse to approve the invoices to be paid for the month of December; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved with no objections.

Overtime Report – Chief Donnelly distributed the 2016 Overtime Report with notable points as follows: total overtime expenses \$253,728.19, total overtime hours 6,832.75, part-time officers accounted for \$72,381.71, standby court costs totaled \$5,950.00, reimbursable overtime \$65,324.19, fire police services 198 hours. The majority of overtime costs were related to Sick/Vacation (36%) and Training (25%). Mr. LaMontagne questioned why some officers have more overtime than others. Chief Donnelly explained the overtime shifts are posted on the Department’s internal scheduling program. Officers then receive an alert to an overtime shift and may sign up for it, first come, first serve. There is no ceiling for hours that an officer may sign up for. Chief Donnelly pointed out the two officers who have an extraordinary amount of overtime are part time officers filling shifts for full time officers. Ms. Robyne Kelemen requested the Department provide a comparison of overtime for 2014 through 2016.

Finance Committee – Mr. David Holewinski made a motion to continue the Finance Committee through 2017 with Mr. Strouse as Chairperson and Mr. LaMontagne and Mr. Abbott as members; seconded by Mr. LaMontagne. Motion approved with no objections.

POLICE ACTIVITY: Chief Donnelly reported 2,135 incidents for December (CB-433; DB-1289; NBB-413); reportable accidents totaled 9 (CB-2; DB-6; NBB-1); total Part I Crimes 15 (CB-0; DB-13, NBB-2); and total Part II Crimes totaled 41 (CB-2; DB-30; NBB-9). An annual report for 2016 will be distributed at the February Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Civil Demonstrations – Chief Donnelly distributed a memo regarding the “Women’s March” civil demonstration that took place in Doylestown Borough on January 21, 2017 with an estimated 1,600+ people. He stated this was an extraordinary amount of people as compared to the anticipated 200 people the event organizer had advised. For public safety reasons, Captain Knott closed the streets at the center of town and managed the crowd with limited police presence. Captain Knott prepared an “After Actions” report with the following recommendations: Event organizers should notify the Borough in a more timely fashion so that additional safety measures can be put in place. Although the event was peaceful and cordial, having an unruly subject or medical emergency in the crowd would have taxed the limited resources in place. Consideration needs to be given to the store owners unable to conduct business due to the volume of marchers blocking their store fronts. In conclusion, Captain Knott states future events of this size will require the timely coordination of more police officers, fire police, public works, fire department and emergency services.

Chief Donnelly anticipates more demonstrations in the future due to the current climate in the country at this time. One alternative is to bring the MIRT team in, however, in appearance they look like riot police which may cause a disturbance instead of being a public safety measure. CBRPD has a good

record with civil rights demonstrations and wants to protect demonstrator's first amendment rights, however, regulations need to be met for public safety purposes. CBRPD received many accolades for their actions on January 21, 2017 and received a few complaints including the lack of sanitary facilities. Presenting further challenge is the growth of participants due to social media. Mr. John Davis has planned a meeting with the Borough solicitor to review an adaptability plan for future civil rights demonstrations. All Borough Managers are encouraged to discuss and coordinate a plan for events.

Alarm Ordinances – Chief Donnelly distributed a memo regarding the inconsistency in the three Borough alarm ordinances. The ordinances vary in permit requirement for installation, servicing, monitoring alarms, fee associated for obtaining a permit, and violation penalties. No mandate exists requiring alarm owners to register their systems with the police department. Mr. John Davis volunteered to speak with Chalfont and New Britain Borough Managers to review their ordinances.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Recruitment, Police Chief – Mr. Abbott has recommended forming a Search Committee that would spearhead the effort of vetting a recruitment firm and report back their findings to the Commission. There was much discussion regarding who would serve on the committee. Mr. Strouse made a motion to form a Search Committee consisting of the three alternate members of the Commission with administrative staff support and to advertise the meetings; seconded by Mr. Ansinn. Motion approved with no objections.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Grants – Mr. Abbott requested a grant update be provided at each Commission meeting beginning in February 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Strouse to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM; seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Donnelly
Chief of Police